UN CHRONICLE

June 1994, Volume XXXI, Number 2

FIGHT AIDS NOW

OUR COVER

From the 'A-train' to fighting AIDS

The grimy walls of the New York City underground subway system might seem an unlikely canvas for launching an art career. But from these bizarre beginnings, the unusual work of American pop artist Keith Haring soon came to light in major galleries and museums around the world. Born in a small Pennsylvania town in 1958, the young man created a distinctive, disturbing urban art with cross-cultural hieroglyphics encompassing social and political themes—from a Harlem billboard with the stark warning "Crack is Wack" to "Free South Africa" posters to a 300-foot mural on the Berlin Wall.

After beginning studies at Manhattan's School of Visual Arts, Mr. Haring quickly became immersed in the downtown arts scene of the early 1980s, developing his trademark white chalk, graffiti-style drawings—the spaceship, barking dog and "glowing baby" are examples—on the streets and walls of New York. His deep commitment to the fight against the disease that ultimately killed him is demonstrated in his powerful work on our June cover—"Fight AIDS Worldwide".

With its bold black strokes and bright orange border, the drawing depicts the growing burden that each of us carries as the AIDS crisis continues to escalate around the world. Created for a World Federation of UN Associations (WFUNA) first-day cover, the limited edition lithograph accompanied the UN Postal Administration's stamp series on AIDS. Mr. Haring died on 16 February 1990 just a month before the stamps were officially issued. The first major retrospective of his work is currently on tour in Europe and will come to the United States in 1996.

To marshall resources against the global AIDS threat, the Executive Board of the World Health Organization has proposed a joint and co-sponsored United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS to coordinate the work of the UN system in this area. The message is clear: Together we must all fight AIDS worldwide.

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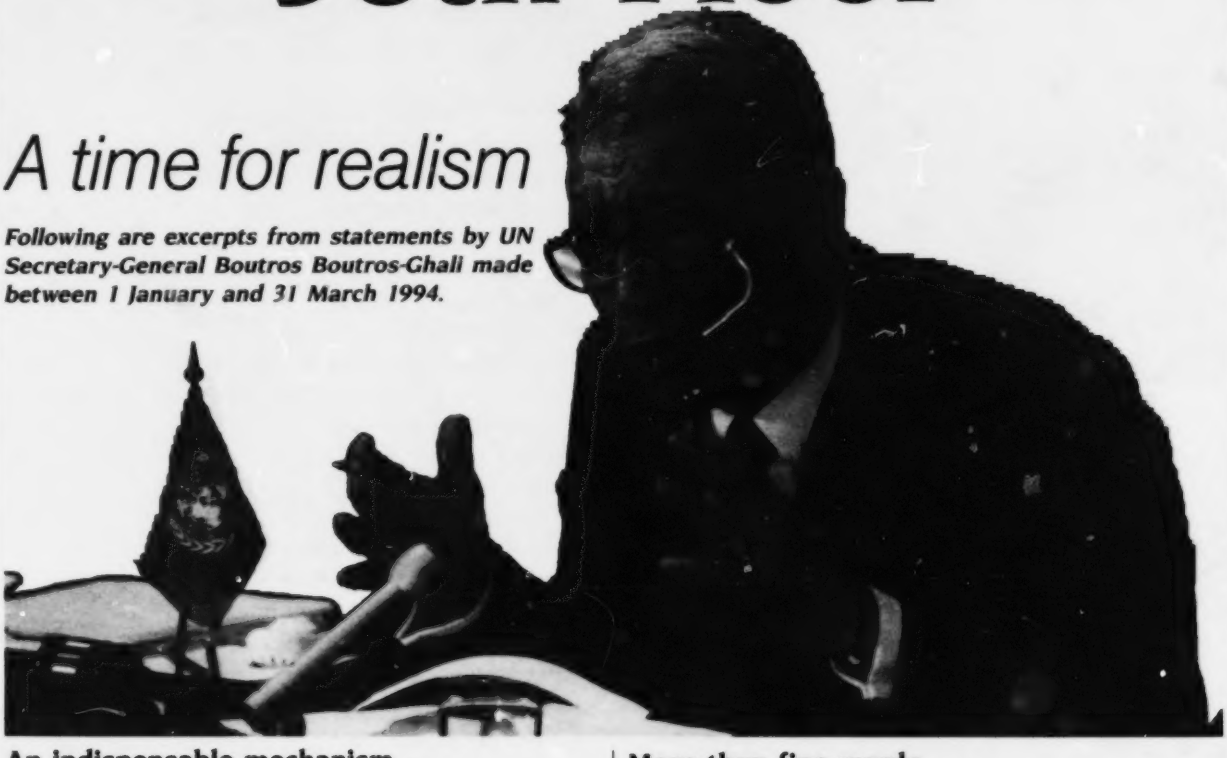
The 38th Floor

A time for realism

Following are excerpts from statements by UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali made between 1 January and 31 March 1994.



An indispensable mechanism . . .

This is a time not for frustration and dismay, but for realism. We need, therefore, to treat this time not as one more transition, but as a turning point. We must combine our efforts towards greater international solidarity and purpose.

The United Nations, by undertaking a range of problems as wide as the globe itself, must be expected to experience failures as well as to achieve successes. The failures cannot be put to one side; they require continuing commitment. And successes cannot be regarded as permanent; every positive outcome is likely to require further effort.

The United Nations exists to carry out common world commitments. It is an indispensable mechanism for human betterment. But as it serves its Member States, it cannot be expected to protect them from hard decisions.

In this context, I see seven contradictions which must be resolved. If the Member States can deal with these issues, the United Nations can turn towards greater global unity, justice and success. If these contradictions remain unresolved, we can expect to descend into ever-deepening troubles and, ultimately, chaos.

At the Gabriel Silver Memorial Lecture at Columbia University, New York, 7 February

More than fine words . . .

How can the question of reform in the United Nations system be advanced, when so many vested interests stand in the way of change? How can decisions be taken, for example, to rationalize the work of the multiplicity of international bodies and agencies, especially in the economic and social sectors, inherited from the cold-war era, when each has its own council accountable to different ministries and interests in the capitals of Member States?

The vision which we share is still not generally shared. There have been fine words from government leaders. There is a remarkable consensus that we live in a time of unique opportunity. There is agreement that new ways of conducting international relations are now possible.

But the reality on the ground is different. The political will to carry through the changes is not always apparent. It has been insufficiently understood that it requires more than fine words to implement new ways of doing international business.

We have a new vision of international cooperation and progress. What is needed now is a new commitment, based firmly in the public opinion of the Member States, to take our project forward.

To Parliamentarians for Global Action, The Hague, 20 January

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Humanity's common language . . .

Today, even those who do not respect international law adopt its language and its terms of reference. Today, even the most flagrant violators of international law feel compelled to assert the compatability of their actions with its principles. International law has helped both to create our vision of progress and to give that vision substance. Through international law we proclaim the universal aspirations and values that are common to all societies. We learn both how to talk to each other and how we can understand each other better. International law is, I am proud to say, humanity's common language of communication.

International law enables us to act upon the principle that human dignity is a concern that transcends national boundaries and national distinctions. Historically, and at the present time, international law has played a vital role in ensuring the spread of human freedom and the greater protection of human rights. Indeed, the notion that individual human rights can be protected by the international community is one of the great practical and intellectual achievements of international law. Even before the development of the modern concept of "human rights", the humanitarian aspect of international law established the presence of the individual in international law and as a subject on international relations.

At the Grote of St. Jacobskerk, The Hague, 19 January

A new UN for a new international era . . .

The United Nations exists to carry out common world commitments. It is an indispensable mechanism for human betterment. States have always defined their national interests. Today, States must be prepared to accommodate the concept of a common—global or planetary—interest. The United Nations is the expression of that common interest. In the past, much energy and creativity was directed to the creation of rival armed camps. Today, in many parts of the world, great efforts are expended on wars against those of different ethnic, racial or religious backgrounds. Those efforts, those energies must now be redirected, and put to work for our common interest as members of a shared international community. Nations which saw those of opposing ideologies as evil must now focus on the real evils: poverty, starvation, disease and pollution, the absence of democracy, infringements of human rights.

But the obstacles to a greater clarity, understanding and commitment in international affairs are already becoming clear. If the Member States can deal with these issues, the United Nations can turn towards greater global unity, justice and success. If these contradictions remain unresolved, we can expect to descend into ever-deepening troubles and, ultimately, chaos.

To the Argentine Council for Foreign Relations, Buenos Aires, 14 March

The world's largest excluded group . . .

Women remain, as the UNDP Human Development Report puts it, "the world's largest excluded group".

Women continue to earn less than men. On average, worldwide, women receive between 30 and 40 per cent less pay than men for the same work. In other words, despite the efforts of the United Nations, especially of the International Labour Organisation and of the Commission on the Status of Women of the Economic and Social Council, much remains to be done.

In the social, educational and health fields, despite some improvements, the situation of women in all parts of the world remains unacceptably inferior to that of men. Three-quarters of women aged twenty-five and over in much of Asia and Africa are illiterate. Women account for two thirds of the total number of illiterate people in the world. Worldwide, there are 130 million children who are not enrolled in primary school; 70 per cent of them are girls.

The situation of women must be high on the list for action. Recognition of the equality and dignity of women must be an integral part of all programmes—for development, peace, security, democracy and human rights.

On the occasion of International Women's Day, New York, 8 March

System coordination vital . . .

The key challenge, if the United Nations is to remain preeminent in development, is to mobilize and coordinate the whole United Nations system to realise that potential.

System coordination is a major strategic issue. It affects our cohesion and effectiveness, and our identity. It both expresses and reinforces our values and philosophy. It is no more and no less than the key to the future leadership of the United Nations in the field of development.

If we are to succeed, the entire United Nations system must work in partnership. Bringing our strengths together requires a new commitment to coordination. It must be impelled by a sense of unity of purpose throughout the system.

To the Global Meeting of the Resident Representatives of the UN Development Programme, New York, 24 March

Source of inspiration . . .

Martin Luther King Jr. advanced the struggle for human rights, not only in this country, but throughout the world. His fight for the civil rights of citizens here provided encouragement and support to all people engaged in the human struggle for freedom and equality. His life remains a strong example of courage in the cause of justice. His words continue to be a source of inspiration and hope.

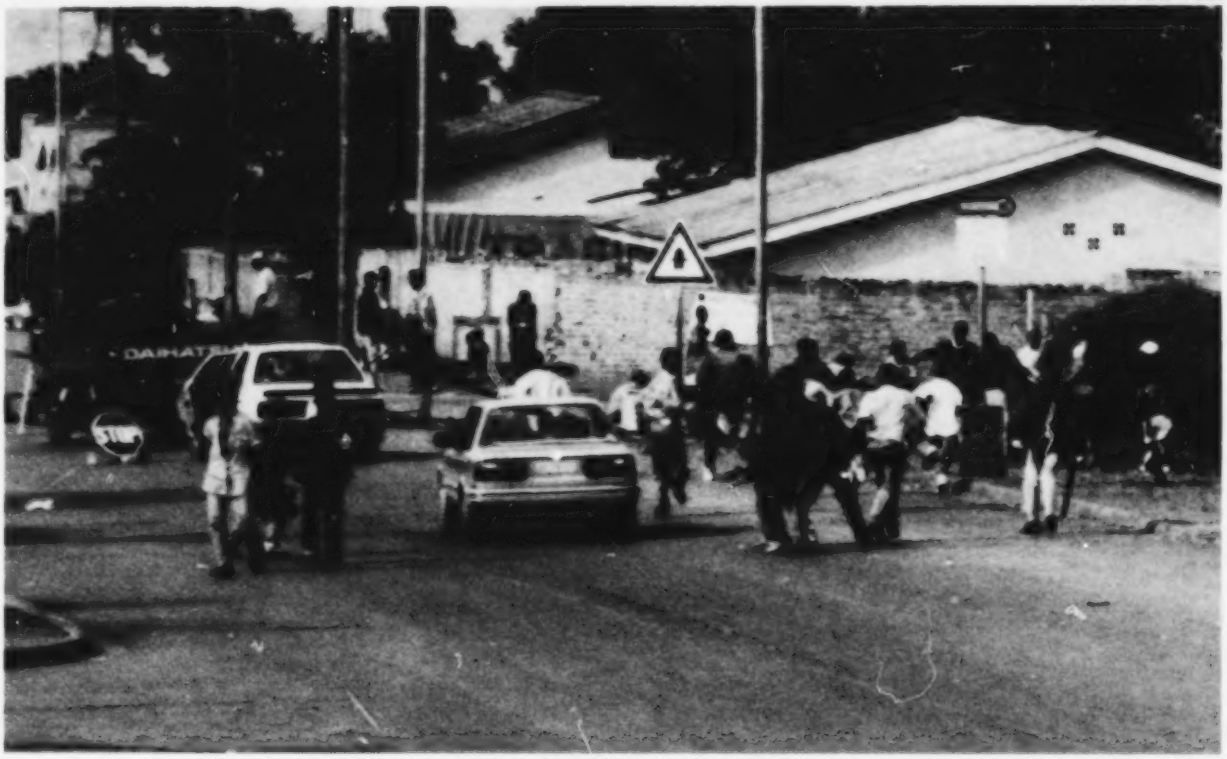
On Martin Luther King Day, New York, 17 January

RWANDA

Deteriorating security situation continues

UNAMIR mandate extended

AP/Wide World Photos



Civil strife on the streets of Kigali *(above)* spread throughout Rwanda.

Expressing concern over the deterioration of security in Rwanda, particularly in the capital city of Kigali, the Security Council on 5 April extended the mandate of the UN Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR) until 29 July.

The Council specified that it did so on the understanding that, within the following six weeks, it would review the situation, including the role played by the UN in Rwanda, if informed by the UN Secretary-General that the transitional institutions provided for under the Arusha Peace Agreement, signed on 4 August 1993, had not been established, and that "insufficient progress has been made" to increase the Mission to its full strength of about 2,600, in order to monitor disengagement, demobilization and integration of the Government and the Rwandese Patriotic Front (RPF) forces. UNAMIR now numbers 2,539.

In unanimously adopting resolution 909 (1994), the 15-member body regretted the delay in implementing the Arusha Agreement and urged the parties to resolve their latest differences without delay, with a view to the immediate establishment of those transitional institutions.

While welcoming the fact that, up to that point, the cease-fire had been respected and commending the essential contribution made by UNAMIR, the Council recalled nevertheless that continued support for the Mission would depend on the full and prompt implementation by the parties to the Arusha Agreement.

Secretary-General's report

On 30 March, the Secretary-General reported *(S/1994/360)* that, despite agreement in December 1993 by the Rwandese Government and the RPF to set up a broad-based transitional Government and the Transitional National Assembly before the end of 1993, that had not taken place because of the parties' inability to agree on relevant modalities, including the lists of members of those institutions.

In accordance with the Arusha Agreement, which provided that the incumbent head of State would remain in office until the outcome of elections to be held at the end of the transitional period, Major-General Juvénal Habyarimana had been sworn in as President on 5 January.

Ethnic violence on the rise

Broad consensus among political leaders to install a transitional Government—reached in mid-February after a series of consultations organized by the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Rwanda, Jacques-Roger Booh Booh—was derailed following an outbreak of violence on 21 February, during the course of which two important leaders were murdered. Efforts to break the stalemate, with the participation of Mr. Booh Booh and the Presidents of Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania, continued during March.

Ceremonies were organized in February and March to install the transitional institutions, but did not take place because of political boycotts and other obstacles.

Presidents killed at Kigali

President of Rwanda Juvénal Habyarimana and President Cyprien Ntaryamira of Burundi were killed on 6 April when a plane in which they were travelling crashed at Kigali Airport under suspicious circumstances. This set off a chain of murders and killings of Tutsis and Hutu rivals of the presidential guard, and prompted a new offensive by the forces of the Tutsi-dominated Rwandese Patriotic Front.

A rapid deterioration

Owing in part to the continuing political stalemate, the Secretary-General said there had been a rapid and dramatic deterioration in the security situation in Kigali, including assassinations, violent demonstrations and roadblocks.

"While most incidents can be attributed to armed banditry, which has been growing as a result of the ready availability of weapons, ethnic and politically-motivated crimes, including assassinations and murders, also have increased", the Secretary-General stated. Those incidents, unless contained or stopped, could lead to an environment of heightened insecurity that could hinder the

Background to the conflict

Fighting between the Armed Forces of the Government of Rwanda and the RFP first broke out in October 1990. Despite a number of cease-fire agreements thereafter, hostilities resumed in early February 1993, interrupting negotiations supported by the Organization of African Unity and facilitated by the United Republic of Tanzania.

In separate letters in February 1993, the Governments of Rwanda and Uganda had asked for deployment of UN observers at their common border. After considering the results of a goodwill mission and a technical team visit to the area, the Council on 22 June, by resolution 846 (1993), established the UN Observers Mission Uganda-Rwanda (UNOMUR) to be deployed on the Ugandan side of the border.

A few weeks later, on 4 August, the Arusha Peace Agreement was signed by the Rwandese Government and the RPF, calling for the establishment of a broad-based transitional government, including a Transitional National Assembly, leading up to democratic elections. The two parties agreed that the war between them had ended and they would spare no effort to promote national unity and reconciliation. Six protocols of agreement, which they had concluded and signed, were attached to the Peace Agreement.

After reviewing the report of a reconnaissance mission—requested by the two parties to examine the functions of a neutral international force called for in the Arusha Peace Agreement—the Council on 5 October, by resolution 872 (1993), established UNAMIR, with a mandate to monitor the security situation in Rwanda and a cease-fire, investigate alleged instances of non-compliance with the Arusha Agreement, monitor repatriation of Rwandese refugees, assist in mine clearance, help coordinate humanitarian aid and investigate incidents regarding the Gendarmerie and police.

The Council, also in resolution 872, approved the proposal that UNOMUR—with 81 military observers and 11 civilian staff—be integrated within UNAMIR. In a November 1993 report *(A/48/636)*, however, the Secretary-General stated that the integration "will be purely administrative in nature and will not affect the mandate of UNOMUR", which was to monitor the border to verify that no military assistance reached Rwanda.

On 31 March, the General Assembly decided that the special accounts for UNAMIR and UNOMUR would be integrated "for purely administrative purposes".

On 6 January, the Security Council, in resolution 893 (1994), approved the early deployment of a second infantry battalion to the demilitarized zone, strongly urging the parties to cooperate with UNAMIR in furthering the peace process.

The Council, in a 17 February statement made by its President, called for the speedy installation of the transitional institutions provided for under the Arusha Agreement and reaffirmed that continued support for UNAMIR would depend on full and prompt implementation of the Agreement by the parties.

implementation of the Arusha Agreement, he concluded.

UNAMIR had stressed to all parties that no ammunition should be brought into Rwanda before the transitional Government was installed. There were increasing reports, however, of distribution of weapons to civilians. The Government forces, he said, continued to mine major roads.

Humanitarian concerns

The humanitarian situation in Rwanda had become "even more worrying as new challenges have compounded existing difficulties and deepened the crisis", the Secretary-General reported. Food supplies were critical, and deteriorating public services in health, sanitation and social relief and rehabilitation put many at risk.

The World Food Programme (WFP) on 16 February called for a greater international response to its January appeal for $45 million in food and cash donations for thousands of refugees and displaced people in Burundi, Rwanda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zaire who were in extreme need. Only 25 per cent of total requirements had been funded, seriously hampering the procurement of urgently-needed food supplies, according to the WFP. ■

AP/Wide World Photos

Rwandese asking peace-keepers for assistance.

Fact-finding mission dispatched to Burundi

A special fact-finding mission has been dispatched to Burundi to investigate the *coup d'état* and massacres of October 1993.

The mission, sent at the request of Burundi and led by former Foreign Minister Siméon Aké of Cote d'Ivoire, is also to examine other activities that the UN might undertake in exercise of the Secretary-General's good offices.

The mission left New York on 19 March and was expected to spend up to three weeks in Burundi. It was scheduled to visit Addis Ababa for consultation with the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity.

Meanwhile, at a meeting of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination on 9 March in Geneva, Mrs. Shanti Sadiq Ali, expert from India and a Country Rapporteur, said that the assassination of President Melchior Ndadaye of Burundi on 21 October 1993 had been followed by inter-ethnic conflict and "policies without precedent" which had plunged Burundi into horror. Thousands of citizens had died and 100,000 others had been forced into exile or displaced, she said.

Mrs. Sadiq Ali added that, in her view, it was of crucial importance to reform the army, stop arms trafficking and institute a legal system to protect the individual.

Perpetue Nshimirimana of Burundi said her Government wanted the causes of the crisis to be clarified to put the country back on the path to peace. It was high time that the ethnic differences were tackled and overcome. A Commission of Inquiry had been set up and would make a public statement on the question, she said.

Committee experts asked Burundi whether the impunity of the army was considered to be the primary cause of the problems. Who was governing Burundi? Who held political power? Who was responsible for the massacres? What measures were being taken to prevent massacres and human rights violations?

Ms. Nshimirimana replied that the Committee might become involved in the human rights education of the army and the judiciary in Burundi. She added that the involvement of the international community in staving off the threat of famine would be welcomed.

In early March, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) launched an emergency airlift into Burundi to deliver relief supplies.

Initial flights were to ferry 20,000 sheets of tarpaulin, 30,000 blankets, 80,000 one-litre jerrycans, 40,000 kitchen sets, a land cruiser and seven pick-up trucks and four generators.

Of more than 700,000 refugees who fled the country after the failed coup sparked widespread ethnic clashes, some 200,000 are in Rwanda, 41,000 in Zaire and 60,000 in the United Republic of Tanzania.

The UNHCR described the Burundi refugee drama as "the largest and fastest" since the Gulf crisis. The magnitude and suddenness of the emergency had overwhelmed relief efforts, resulting in high mortality rates in camps in the asylum countries. Increased food rations and decongestion of the camps had eased the situation considerably.

The UN Children's Fund also warned that as many as 10,000 children might die of starvation as a result of renewed ethnic violence in Burundi. ■

Progress towards national reconciliation reported

Mandate of UNAVEM II extended

UN Photo 159444/M. Grant

After Angolans voted in September 1992, widespread civil strife broke out. *Above*, a view of a roofless polling station in Sumbe town.

Intensive negotiations for a comprehensive peace settlement in Angola had stalled on the issue of participation of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) in the management of State affairs, it was reported on 31 March. The talks in Lusaka, Zambia had resumed in November 1993 following widespread post-election civil strife.

After recalling that 12 of 18 issues relating to the national reconciliation of Angola had already been agreed upon, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali reported *(S/1994/374)* to the Security Council that the outstanding issues could be resolved if "approached with realism and the necessary political will".

Of the six remaining points, most important was UNITA's role in the organs of central, provincial and local government and in diplomatic missions. The other unresolved issues included: the future status of "Vorgan" radio; assumption by UNITA deputies of their seats in the National Assembly; re-establishment of State administration throughout Angola; and the return of UNITA property in the hands of the Government, and vice versa.

The 12 specific principles on national reconciliation accepted by the Angolan Government and UNITA covered, *inter alia*, concepts such as trust, tolerance, coexistence, pardon and amnesty, as well as concrete questions, including the reaffirmation of the need for security guarantees, freedom of association, expression and the press, independence of the judiciary, adoption of the symbols of State, and decentralization.

Once all outstanding issues had been successfully addressed, Mr. Boutros-Ghali said discussions would concentrate on conclusion of the electoral process, the future mandate of the UN, and the role of the three observer States in the peace process —the United States, the Russian Federation and Portugal.

The military situation throughout the country had been "generally marked by a reduction of large-scale military operations", he said, despite UNITA's continuing raids, ambushes, shelling and other military actions.

Mr. Boutros-Ghali called for "restraint on the ground" and a halt to all military actions to help establish a "much-needed atmosphere" of trust and confidence at the Lusaka talks. He also urged the Government of Angola and UNITA to "show the flexibility needed" to reach a comprehensive settlement, "so that the people of Angola can finally enjoy the lasting peace they deserve after so many years of conflict".

A decisive turn

On 9 March, the Secretary-General had reported *(S/1994/282)* that the Lusaka negotiations had "taken a decisive turn" and were proceeding towards the conclusion of a comprehensive peace agreement. National reconciliation was, above all, the primary objective of the peace process—the "crucial issue that remains to be resolved".

On 17 February, agreement was reached on general principles concerning national reconciliation. On 11 December 1993, agreement had been reached on the general and specific principles, as well as modalities, relating to all military issues, including: re-establishment of a cease-fire; withdrawal, quartering and demilitarization of all UNITA military forces; disarming of all civilians; and completion of the formation of the Angolan Armed Forces, including demobilization.

In January, agreement had been reached on general and specific principles and on the modalities concerning the police, including the composition of the rapid intervention police, which had required protracted negotiation.

On 29 January, the Secretary-General reported *(S/1994/100)* that the two parties in the Lusaka talks had shown the will to achieve a comprehensive peace agreement. He recommended that the Council adhere to its present stance, with the oil and arms embargo against UNITA-controlled territory in place and further measures postponed pending the outcome of negotiations. Should the circumstances change, he would recommend additional measures or a review of those in effect.

On 10 February, the Security Council issued a statement commending the Secretary-General, his Special Representative Alioune Blondin Beye, and the Chief Military Observer on their efforts to bring the Lusaka negotiations to a successful conclusion, with a view to reaching an effective and sustainable settlement of the conflict within the framework of the "Acordos de Paz" and relevant Council resolutions.

Resolution 903: Honouring commitments

In resolution 903 (1994), adopted unanimously on 16 March, the Security Council called on the two parties to honour the commitments already made and to "redouble their efforts" to resolve the outstanding issues, attain an effective and sustainable cease-fire, and conclude a peaceful settlement without procrastination.

Calling on States to continue to respect the embargo against the territory controlled by UNITA, instituted in September 1993, the Council decided, in view of the continuing direct negotiations between the parties, not to impose additional sanctions against UNITA, but reiterated its readiness to consider at any time further steps in that area.

The Council urged maximum flexibility and good faith by the parties regarding the negotiations. It also condemned any actions that threatened the unimpeded delivery of humanitarian assistance to all in need in Angola and put the lives of humanitarian workers at risk.

Also, in resolution 903, the Council extended the mandate of the UN Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM II) until 31 May, authorizing the Secretary-General to make contingency plans for an increase in the Mission's strength to its previous level of 350 military observers and 126 police observers, as soon as agreement between the parties to the conflict was reached. The Council also demanded the immediate cessation of continued offensive military actions.

In his 31 March report, the Secretary-General had said that, in anticipation of a successful conclusion of the Lusaka peace talks, contingency plans had been formulated to increase the strength of UNAVEM II—currently consisting of 50 observers—immediately after a settlement. To form the nucleus of new regional headquarters, plans were formulated to deploy small teams of existing military and police observers to the provincial capitals of Huambo, Uige, Menongue and Luena, and perhaps one or two other locations. In addition to increasing UNAVEM II's verification capabilities after the cease-fire, this would also serve as preparation for subsequent stages of deployment.

UN Photo/Jimmy Bu

The Council adopted resolution 903 (1994) on 16 March.

Humanitarian situation

On 31 March, the Secretary-General said the humanitarian situation in Angola demanded greater attention from the international community. On 9 March, he had reported that, despite some fighting, humanitarian activities continued throughout the country.

The UN Department of Humanitarian Affairs on 28 February asked for $179-million emergency humanitarian aid for Angola until July 1994. A UN official said at least 3.3 million Angolans—over a quarter of the total population—required relief assistance. ■

Timetable for withdrawal of ONUMOZ asked

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has been asked to prepare a timetable to guide the completion of the mandate of the UN Operation in Mozambique (ONUMOZ), including specific proposals for a phased drawdown of military forces in the transportation corridors and the withdrawal of military observers.

In unanimously adopting resolution 898 (1994) on 23 February, the Security Council, as an interim step towards that goal, also authorized the creation within UNOMOZ of a 1,144-member police component—to be known as CIVPOL—to monitor all police activities in Mozambique, ensure proper conduct of the electoral campaign and verify respect for the political rights of individuals, groups and organizations. The new unit would also provide technical support to the National Police Commission.

In the initial phase of CIVPOL, a central headquarters and regional and provincial capital teams would be set up. The second phase would coincide with voter registration between April and June 1994, during which time 70 per cent of CIVPOL posts would become operational. The component would be fully deployed no later than one month before the electoral campaign, scheduled to begin on 1 September.

Expressing concern at the continuing delay in the implementation of major aspects of the General Peace Agreement, signed in Rome on 4 October 1992, the Council called upon the Government and RENAMO to comply fully with the peace accord provisions, particularly concerning the cease-fire and the cantonment and demobilization of troops, and with the decisions of the Monitoring and Supervision Commission.

It further called upon the Government to achieve balance between the parties in the cantonment of troops and to conclude the process in accordance with the revised timetable.

The Council reiterated the vital importance of holding the general elections no later than October 1994 and urged the parties to agree promptly on a specific election date. It appealed to the international community to provide financial assistance to implement the General Peace Agreement and to make voluntary contributions to a trust fund to be set up to support electoral activities of the political parties.

The Secretary-General was to report by 30 April on whether the parties have made sufficient and tangible progress towards implementing the Agreement and fulfilling the timetable for demobilizing troops and holding elections.

The Secretary-General reported *(S/1994/89 and Add.1)* on 28 January that, while significant progress had been made in Mozambique, several serious problems in implementing the Peace Agreement still remained. He warned that the international community would be increasingly reluctant to continue to support the peace process in the event of further delays.

A major challenge was posed, he said, by the demobilization of 80,000 troops belonging to the Government forces and those of RENAMO. The demobilized soldiers needed viable economic opportunities, and the troops joining the new army had to be incorporated into a well-functioning institution. Also, additional resources were needed to help RENAMO transform itself into a political party. Failure to resolve that problem could jeopardize the peace process. A UN-administered trust fund for a projected $10 million had been established.

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) appealed on 8 February for a further $102.8 million for the voluntary repatriation programme in Mozambique. The three-year operation—the largest UNHCR has ever undertaken in Africa—is designed to help 1.5 million Mozambicans return from six neighbouring countries. More than 500,000 Mozambican refugees returned in 1993 to their devastated country, mostly on foot.

UN Photo

A major challenge: demobilization of troops.

As of 31 March, Major-General Mohammad Abdus Salam of Bangladesh was appointed Force Commander of ONUMOZ, replacing Major-General Lélio Rodrigues Gonçalves da Silva of Brazil. ■

Assembly, Council support steps to promote first non-racial, democratic elections

In important steps towards supporting the process of peaceful democratic change in South Africa, the Security Council and the General Assembly adopted resolutions to help promote the success of South Africa's first non-racial, democratic elections in April.

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, in a major report of 10 January *(A/48/845-S/1994/16)*, detailed the expansion of the mandate and size of the United Nations Observer Mission in South Africa (UNOMSA), giving an account of its activities and the framework of the electoral process.

In other action between 1 January and 31 March, the Chairman of the Special Committee against Apartheid warned that any postponement of elections could cause confusion and resentment among the South African people and aggravate tension, violence and loss of life. Despite the enormous progress that had been made in talks by the multi-party negotiators, differences among the parties persisted, he said in statements on behalf of the Committee.

Of particular concern was the continuing insistence by the Conservative Party and the Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) to suspend their participation in the multi-party negotiations and, perhaps, withhold their participation in the elections.

The UN observed the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination on 21 March, with speeches by the Secretary-General, the General Assembly President and others, expressing their opposition to any form of discrimination based on race, colour, creed and national or ethnic origin. "For the United Nations, the elimination of racial discrimination remains a long and exacting task that requires constantly renewed action", the Secretary-General said.

UN Photo

Vernon R. W. Steward of South Africa

Security Council action

In unanimously adopting resolution 894 (1994) on 14 January, the Security Council urged all parties in South Africa, including those that did not participate fully in the multi-party talks, to respect agreements reached during the negotiations, adhere to democratic principles and take part in the elections.

The Council further called upon all parties to end the violence and intimidation, and thus contribute to the conduct of free and fair elections, and to respect the safety and security of the international observers and facilitate the carrying out of their mandate.

The Council also widened the mandate and enlarged the size of UNOMSA, so it could better monitor the elections scheduled from 26 to 28 April. Numbering 100 observers in March, the enlarged UNOMSA was to consist of nearly 3,000.

The 15-member Council also welcomed the Secretary-General's proposal to set up a trust fund to finance the participation of additional observers from Africa and other developing countries.

Before the resolution vote, South Africa welcomed the Council's participation in promoting the country's transition to a Government of national unity. More international observers would ensure that elections would be free and fair, with their results beyond all doubt, it felt.

General Assembly action

The General Assembly, in adopting resolution 48/233 on 8 February, supported the aims of the Security Council's 14 January resolution, encouraging Member States to respond positively to the call for election observers. It also wanted South African authorities to protect the right of all South Africans to organize and participate in peaceful public manifestations and rallies, to run for election and participate in the polls, free of intimidation, in all parts of the country, including the "homelands".

In his 25-page report of 10 January, the Secretary-General said that within the core group of 2,840 observers, the UN would supply 1,778, with the remainder to come from the Organization of African Unity (OAU), the Commonwealth and the European Union, as well as from neighbouring African countries. There would also be observers from foreign non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

UN Photo

Kingsley Makhubela, observer for ANC

UNOMSA would have a significant role, he said, not only in assessing the ultimate freedom and fairness of the elections, but in monitoring the electoral process at each stage. Based on its long-term activities, the Mission would be "uniquely capable of evaluating the extent to which the April elections truly reflect the will of the South African people".

South Africa had requested UNOMSA's enlargement to ensure that the UN could mount an effective role after the Independent Electoral Commission and the Transitional Executive Council (TEC) became operational. On 18 November 1993, the creation of the TEC and the Commission were approved by the Multi-Party Negotiating Council—established through bilateral negotiations between the South African Government and the African National Congress of South Africa (ANC)—as part of the constitutional principles and institutions to guide the country through a transitional period leading up to the elections.

The TEC met for the first time on 7 December 1993 and endorsed a request by the Negotiating Council that the UN provide a sufficient number of observers to monitor the electoral process.

The new mandate

Under the expanded mandate, UNOMSA would be required to:

- Observe the actions of the Independent Electoral Commission and its organs in all aspects and stages of the electoral process, verifying their compatibility with the conduct of a free and fair election under the Independent Electoral Commission and Electoral Acts;
- Observe the extent of freedom of organization, movement, assembly and expression during the electoral campaign, and ascertain the adequacy of the measures taken to ensure that political parties and alliances enjoy those freedoms without hindrance or intimidation;
- Monitor the compliance of security forces with the requirements of relevant laws and decisions of the TEC;
- Verify the satisfactory implementation of the dispositions of the Independent Media Commission and the Independent Broadcasting Authority Acts;
- Verify that the voter education efforts of the electoral authorities and other interested parties are sufficient and will result in voters being adequately informed on the meaning of the vote and its procedural aspects;
- Verify that qualified voters are not denied the identification documents or temporary voter's cards that will enable them to exercise their right to vote;
- Verify that voting occurs on election days in an environment free of intimidation and in conditions which ensure free access to voting stations and the secrecy of the vote, and that adequate measures have been taken to ensure proper transport and custody of ballots, security of the vote count and timely announcement of results; and
- Coordinate the activities of observers from international governmental organizations and foreign Governments, so as to ensure that they are deployed in an effective and coordinated manner; establish effective cooperation with South African and foreign NGOs, which will also monitor the electoral process.

UN Photo 151704

For the first time, millions of black South Africans will have the opportunity to participate in a new non-racial Government.

Based on those activities, UNOMSA would report to the electoral authorities on complaints, irregularities and interference, and request remedial action, the Secretary-General stated.

The UN operations in Namibia, he went on, had demonstrated that long-term observers who followed the whole electoral campaign and established networks of contacts were far more useful than those who arrived just before the elections and concentrated on the events of the voting days.

In consideration of that successful experience, the increase in political violence in the second half of 1993 and the short time-frame available before the election, the Secretary-General proposed the use of a combination of approaches, such as mobile teams to cover polling stations in areas with a low expectation of violence and one observer at each station in areas with a history of violence.

Under the expanded mandate, UNOMSA would have two operating arms: a Peace Promotion Division and an Electoral Division. The Secretary-General proposed that the Peace Promotion Division observers be increased from 100 to 500 by March 1994 to allow monitoring teams to widen their coverage. The staff of the Electoral Division would be expanded from 14 to 50.

UNOMSA observers had covered demonstrations, marches, rallies, funerals and other forms of mass action, the Secretary-General reported. They had worked closely with organizers and security forces to ensure that events were adequately planned in accordance with the guidelines for marches and political gatherings.

They had held informal bilateral meetings and often acted as channels of communication between groups across the political and social spectrum, including government officials, political parties and NGOs involved in the peace process. They had attended meetings of local and regional peace committees and of other bodies set up under the National Peace Accord.

UNOMSA had served as a channel of communication and coordination among international observer missions and had been called upon to play a more pro-active role in the vital area of socio-economic reconstruction and development, in view of the diversified pool of expertise available to it. This was a crucial step forward for the observers, as it paved the way for technical assistance and the whole array of development activities already pledged to the new South Africa, the Secretary-General said.

Violence a problem

Public violence remained a major concern and was due mostly to conflict between political parties, taxi associations, and township and hostel residents. Criminal elements, often victims of social deprivation and unemployment, especially among youth, contributed to a significant extent to the perpetuation of violence. In many instances, they received protection from political groups or disappeared in the anonymity or complicity of the township population.

Political violence continued to be mainly concentrated in Natal and the East Rand where 90 per cent of the deaths had occurred. Right-wing violence was also on the increase.

While numerous initiatives had been undertaken to curb violence, the overall result was far from reassuring, the Secretary-General said. However, in circumstances where joint action was taken by political parties and the police, tangible results were often achieved. UNOMSA teams had played a major role in the resolution of violent problems in Border/Ciskei and Western Cape areas.

'War talk' a concern

The international observer missions of the UN, the OAU, the Commonwealth and the European Union deplored the violence and loss of life that occurred on 28 March during a march in Johannesburg, and said that the tragedy could have been prevented. The failure to plan adequately for that march and take steps for effective crowd control had contributed to the violence.

The missions, in a 29 March statement, called on South Africa's political leaders to exercise reason and responsibility, and to carry the message of peace and democracy throughout the country. The failure of those leaders and the security forces to act together to prevent a senseless slaughter was inexcusable, they said. They also expressed concern over the use of "war talk", threats and challenges, saying such language threatened the very future of South Africa.

A UN official on 17 February said the Secretary-General, through his Special Representative, had received the declaration made by ANC President Nelson Mandela on 16 February, offering new concessions to the Freedom Alliance in an effort to secure participation by all parties in the forthcoming elections in South Africa.

The Secretary-General said he understood from press reports that this initiative had been well received in South Africa. It was difficult not to share Mr. Mandela's view that history and future generations would judge the current South African leadership harshly if it failed to take all the necessary measures to resolve the country's problems peacefully and through dialogue.

IFP Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi and Mr. Mandela met on 1 March. In letters dated 2 March, the Secretary-General welcomed their development of a framework for all political parties to participate in the transitional arrangements, including the electoral process. The "bold initiatives" undertaken would promote national reconciliation and peace in South Africa, he said.

The Secretary-General also wrote to South African President F. W. de Klerk acknowledging his efforts to ensure that all political parties participated in the transitional arrangements. He assured the three leaders that the UN would continue to support the peace process so that free and fair elections could take place in April. ■

Two seminars on South Africa held

Two seminars on South Africa were held at the beginning of the year. The first was held from 22 to 24 January on "Sustainable Economic Growth and Development in South Africa: Policy Priorities for the Early Years of a Democratic Government". It was organized by the London School of Economics and Political Science and the UN Special Committee against Apartheid. The other seminar, on the "Image of the United Nations in South Africa", took place in Cape Town from 8 to 10 February.

General Assembly President Samuel R. Insanally gave the keynote address entitled "Preparing the way for a new, united, democratic South Africa" to a conference in Harare on 26 January.

Members of the Special Committee visited South Africa from 28 February to 6 March to underline Committee support for the South African people and their political leadership in efforts to bring all parties into the process and conduct the elections as scheduled, in an atmosphere free from violence and intimidation.

Mandate for UNOSOM II revised

'Coercive methods' not to be used

AP/Wide World Photos

United States Marines leaving Mogadishu on 25 March. A revised UNOSOM II mandate said the Mission would rely on the cooperation of the Somali parties.

A revised mandate for the UN Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II) was established by the Security Council on 4 February, after carrying out a fundamental review of the political, humanitarian and security situations in the country.

"UNOSOM II is on the side of the Somali people", Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali declared in a comprehensive report to the Council. "Its only endeavour is to help the people of Somalia so that they can once again be the effective masters of their destiny."

In setting out three possible options, Mr. Boutros-Ghali said that the main focus of the UN operation in future would be on "promoting Somali initiatives in the political, security and nation-building process". Only a comprehensive mandate "would make it possible for UNOSOM II to create a secure environment and to accelerate its efforts to help the Somali people as they move along the process of national reconciliation and institution-building".

The Council, in unanimously adopting resolution 897 (1994), put forward a seven-point mandate, which called for: assisting the Somali parties in cooperative efforts to achieve disarmament and respect the cease-fire; protecting major ports and airports, and essential infrastructure and communications systems vital to providing humanitarian and reconstruction aid; continuing efforts to provide humanitarian relief to all in need throughout the country; assisting in reorganizing the Somali police and judicial system; helping with the repatriation and resettlement of refugees and displaced persons; assisting in the ongoing political process, which should culminate in the installation of a democratically-elected government; and providing protection for UN personnel, installations and equipment, and for non-governmental organizations providing humanitarian relief.

The Council on 18 November, in its resolution 886 (1993), had asked the Secretary-General to provide a future strategy for UNOSOM II, in the wake of five months of violent confrontations between international peace-keepers and an armed Somali faction, including a 5 June ambush of a Pakistani contingent which resulted in 24 deaths and street fighting in October during which 18 American soldiers lost their lives.

SOMALIA

"There are unmistakable signs of fatigue among the international community as it continues to be called upon" to extend assistance to Somalia through the UN, the Secretary-General stated in his 6 January report *(S/1994/12)*, issued in response to the November Council action.

The Council had created UNOSOM in April 1992 to deliver humanitarian relief to starving Somalis. An international force was dispatched in December 1992 to protect convoys from repeated looting by armed bandits. UNOSOM II took over the operation in May 1993, becoming the largest UN peace-keeping force ever, numbering 30,000 at its peak.

Following the Pakistani ambush, the Council on 6 June 1993, condemning the "unprovoked armed attacks", reaffirmed that "all necessary measures" could be taken against "all those responsible" and cited the United Somali Congress (USC/SNA)—the faction led by Gen. Mohamed Farah Aidid—as a probable initiator of the attack.

Under resolution 814 (1993), adopted on 26 March 1993, UNOSOM II became the first UN peace-keeping operation authorized to use force under the provisions of Chapter VII of the UN Charter.

Under its revised mandate, UNOSOM II, the Secretary-General said, "would not use coercive methods, but would rely on the cooperation of the Somali parties. In the event that inter-clan fighting resumes in different parts of the country, UNOSOM II, while not becoming involved in it, will retain some capability to defend its personnel if circumstances so warrant."

By resolution 897, the Council authorized the "gradual reduction" of the Operation to a force level of up to 22,000, with necessary support elements, to be reviewed at the next renewal of the mandate.

It underlined the "vital importance of placing at the disposal of UNOSOM II the necessary material means and military assets required to enable it to discharge its responsibilities in an effective manner, as well as effectively to defend its personnel in case of armed attack".

Importance was given to the process of de-mining and to directing international reconstruction resources to regions where security was being re-established.

The Council demanded that all Somali parties refrain from any acts of intimidation or violence against personnel engaged in humanitarian or peace-keeping work, and reaffirmed the obligations of States to implement fully the embargo on all deliveries of weapons and military equipment to Somalia, imposed under resolution 733 (1992).

Referring to UNOSOM II's objective of completing its mission by March 1995, the Council called on the Secretary-General to consider, in consultation with regional organizations, establishing with the Somali parties an agreed timetable for implementing the "Addis Ababa Agreements".

Concern over renewed fighting in Sudan

On 11 February, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali expressed concern over the renewed fighting in southern Sudan and called on the warring parties to cease all hostilities immediately so as to end the suffering of the innocent civilian population. The fighting, combined with severe drought conditions, was exacerbating the suffering of tens of thousands of victims, he said.

An estimated 150,000 people were reported to have been displaced in the Nemule, Mundri and Maridi areas. The escalating conflict could result in widespread flows of refugees into the neighbouring countries, the Secretary-General added.

The Secretary-General welcomed the agreement of 22 March that permitted UN humanitarian assistance by air, land, water, and rail to all disadvantaged, regardless of their location. He said the UN was ready to assist the Sudanese Government and the warring factions in demarcating "corridors of tranquility" to deliver such relief assistance.

On 8 February, the UN launched an emergency appeal for humanitarian assistance for the Sudan to meet the basic needs of some 6.5 million affected people. The appeal identified priority requirements totalling $279 million for food aid and distribution, nutrition and health services, and the repatriation of Ethiopian refugees living in the Sudan.

The success of the humanitarian effort would depend, in the first instance, on the parties to the conflict, who must help create conditions that would permit the operations to continue, the Secretary-General stated.

In other action, the World Food Programme (WFP) announced on 28 January that it would step up relief activities as a result of an increased demand for emergency food in the Sudan. At least 3.7 million people are affected by food shortages—1 million more than in 1993.

In southern Sudan, some 2 million people could need food assistance through 1994, the WFP said. Their nutritional situation was deteriorating fast. In some areas, food stocks had been completely exhausted by January; the usual "hunger gap" occurred from May through July.

Four Sudanese staff members of the UN "Operation Lifeline Sudan", detained by the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in late February, were released in good health after an appeal by the UN Secretary-General. They had been vaccinating children and assessing humanitarian needs in the Attar area.

A nation-building process

In his 6 January report, the Secretary-General had warned that without the continued stabilizing presence of an adequate UN force, there would be an early resumption of civil strife and an unravelling of all that had been achieved at the cost of so much sacrifice—human and material.

"What can be achieved will therefore depend on the willingness of Member States to see the Somalia operation to its successful conclusion, so that the people of Somalia can look forward to a reasonably promising future after so many years of suffering and strife", he said.

The Secretary-General said that the international community had given ample evidence of concern for the suffering people of Somalia. Nations had sent their people to serve in Somalia, and many lives had been lost, both military and civilian. UN Member States had invested huge sums of money in an operation which had saved hundreds of thousands of lives.

The Secretary-General said his position was clear: the international community must not abandon the people of Somalia as long as an overwhelming majority of them desired the presence of the UN.

UN Photo 159828/M. Grant

UNOSOM II is on the side of the people, the Secretary-General said.

Other developments

Lieutenant General Aboo Samah Bin Aboo Bakar of Malaysia replaced Lt. Gen. Cevik Bir of Turkey as Force Commander of UNOSOM II, as of 15 February. On 3 February, it was reported that Admiral Jonathan Howe, the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Somalia, would be leaving that position. Lansana Kouyate of Guinea would serve as Acting Special Representative until a replacement was found.

Representatives of donor countries met in Nairobi, Kenya on 25 and 26 January to consider a quick start to the rehabilitation of selected Somali regions, which had met the conditions set out at the Fourth Humanitarian Conference on Somalia, held in December 1993. A Declaration adopted at the Conference stated that aid would be directed to areas where there was peace and stability.

At the meeting, Japan announced it would contribute $10 million for UNOSOM II, to be used first for training Somali police and then for the general operation of the police project.

The World Food Programme (WFP) announced on 3 January that it would supply an additional 16,900 metric tons of emergency food to vulnerable people throughout Somalia. Only 15 per cent of WFP projects in the country were emergency-related, WFP Executive Director Catherine Bertini said. Although significant progress had been made in 1993 in alleviating hunger, Somalia was still recovering from the widespread famine, she added.

"The people of Somalia urgently need employment to get back on their feet", she said. "For this reason, 50 per cent of WFP's programmes in 1994 are food-for-work schemes, which we expect will generate around 64,000 jobs, indirectly benefiting 320,000 people."

The World Health Organization was coordinating a major campaign against a serious outbreak of cholera in Somalia. Local authorities had formed a commission to manage a cholera outbreak in Mogadishu, while UNOSOM II spearheaded a public awareness campaign in Kismayo to halt the epidemic. ■

Eritrean border skirmish reported

Eritrean President Isaias Afwerki on 3 January drew attention *(S/1994/34)* to a border skirmish with the Sudan in which 20 armed Sudanese and one Eritrean had been killed. He said the National Islamic Front and its Government had been "working frantically to weaken and overthrow the Government of Eritrea, as well as to expand their influence in the Horn and destabilize the whole region".

On 24 January, Sudan denied *(S/1994/71)* categorically any connection to the alleged incident. It did not encourage the establishment within its territory of any organization hostile to neighbouring States, including Eritrea.

Identification Commission to proceed with voter registration

The Identification Commission of the UN Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) has been asked by the Security Council to proceed with the identification and registration of potential voters by 30 June, with a view to holding the balloting by the end of 1994. The registration process would be based on the Secretary-General's compromise proposal concerning the interpretation and application of criteria for voter eligibility in the referendum for self-determination of the people of Western Sahara.

The Council acted on 29 March by unanimously adopting resolution 907 (1994). Expressing deep concern over continuing difficulties and delays in the work of the Commission, it requested the Secretary-General to report no later than 15 July on progress achieved in the Commission's work, as well as on other aspects of the UN settlement plan for Western Sahara, agreed upon in 1990.

The Council also decided that, in the event the Secretary-General reported that the referendum could not be held by the end of 1994, it would "consider MINURSO's future, including an examination of options regarding its mandate and continued operations".

Three options

The Secretary-General had presented *(S/1994/283 and Add.1)* on 10 March three options to the Security Council. The Council chose option B, by which the UN would continue its efforts to obtain the cooperation of both parties on the basis of the Secretary-General's compromise proposal, while the Identification Commission would continue its work until 30 June.

Under Option A, the Council would have authorized the UN to hold the referendum, regardless of the cooperation of either party. According to Option C, the Council would have concluded that the cooperation of both parties could not be obtained at present, and would let the whole operation be phased out within a given time-frame or that the registration and identification process be suspended, but that a reduced UN military presence be retained to encourage respect for the cease-fire.

The Secretary-General noted that both options A and B would require Member States to provide military personnel. Even maintenance of MINURSO at its present strength of about 350 from 25 nations would require urgent action in light of the impending withdrawal of contingents from Australia, Canada and Switzerland.

The Secretary-General stated that following protracted delays, every possible avenue had been explored to break the deadlock over criteria.

Sahabzada Yaqub-Khan, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Western Sahara, in a 4 February letter to the Frente Popular para la Liberación de Saguia el-Hamra y de Rio de Oro (Frente POLISARIO), defined the fundamental problem facing the Frente POLISARIO as follows: "Since the criteria set forth by the previous Secretary-General . . . enlarge the electorate beyond the persons included in the 1974 census, there is a danger that application of these criteria might result in the fraudulent and unverifiable inclusion of persons who are not Saharans from the Territory". The UN, he said, "must permit all Saharans existing in the Territory, but only them, to have a say in their future".

In the absence of any scientific or mathematical formula that would establish the parameters of the potential electorate, the Identification Commission's "common sense and good judgement, knowledge of history and objectivity" must prevail.

Cooperation required

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali told a press conference in New York on 1 February that he would continue to provide direct contacts between Frente POLISARIO and Morocco, because he believed that in that way the UN would be able to again establish a climate of confidence. Even if the referendum were to take place tomorrow, the Secretary-General said, implementing its result would require the cooperation of both the protagonists.

If no agreement was possible, he said he would take the matter to the Security Council which might ask him to continue to negotiate or might say: "Enough is enough. Let us have the referendum even if one of the two parties refuses to participate."

Mr. Boutros-Ghali, in his message to the Special Committee on decolonization on 15 February, said that the international community continued to support a final settlement of the conflict as quickly as possible. The Council continued to pay close attention to current diplomatic initiatives.

Special Representative Yaqub-Khan had visited the area from 2 to 13 January, finding that stumbling blocks remained to acceptance by all parties of the Secretary-General's compromise proposals. Efforts must continue to create the necessary climate of confidence and overcome the remaining difficulties. Meanwhile, preparations in the field for the referendum would continue.

On 15 March, the Secretary-General appointed Erik Jensen as his Deputy Special Representative for Western Sahara. ■

National Transitional Government installed as disarmament begins

Thousands of Liberians witnessed the installation ceremony in Monrovia of the new Liberian National Transitional Government on 7 March, the same day a nationwide process of disarmament was to begin. These key events were the culmination of international and regional efforts to end the four-year civil war in that West African nation.

Chief Justice James G. Bull administered the oath of office to five members of the Council of State, representatives of the parties to the Cotonou Agreement of 25 July 1993.

The ceremony was attended by President Nicephore Soglo of Benin, current Chairman of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), which provided a military observer group, known as ECOMOG, for the conflict, and other high-level dignitaries.

"The restoration of peace and the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Liberia will require the overwhelming support of the UN, international donors and friendly Governments", Liberia's Ambassador William Bull informed the Secretary-General on 8 March *(S/1994/279)*.

The Transitional Government would facilitate the complete disarmament of all combatants, the repatriation of more than 700,000 Liberian refugees and the holding on 7 September 1994 of democratic national and presidential elections, under international supervision, Mr. Bull added.

At a key meeting on 15 February in Monrovia, the three parties to the Liberian conflict—the Interim Government of National Unity, the National Patriotic Front of Liberia, and the United Liberation Movement for Democracy in Liberia—had reached agreement on most outstanding issues impeding the commencement of disarmament and the installation of a transitional government.

The Secretary-General reported *(S/1994/168 and Add.1)* that at that meeting—facilitated by his Special Representative, Trevor Gordon-Somers, and the Eminent Person of the Organization of African Unity, the Reverend Canaan Banana—the parties had agreed to provide ECOMOG and the UN Observer Mission in Liberia (UNOMIL) with information needed to prepare schedules for disarmament. They also agreed to hold free and fair elections on 7 September.

On 25 February, the Security Council expressed concern over a recent upsurge of violence and disruption of humanitarian relief shipments.

On 18 January, the Council had stated *(S/1994/51)* that delays in implementing the Cotonou Agreement could endanger international support for UN efforts in Liberia.

The World Food Programme (WFP) predicted that Liberia would need increased food aid in 1994 due to political developments. "The continuing emergency in Liberia remains one of the world's largest refugee operations, and one of the world's most forgotten", says WFP Executive Director Catherine Bertini. ■

Consideration urged for new proposal on Libya dispute

The League of Arab States had urged the Security Council to take into consideration a "new and constructive" proposal on the dispute between Libya and the United States and the United Kingdom regarding the 1988 bombing of Pan American flight 103 over Lockerbie in Scotland, with a view to arriving at a peaceful settlement and avoiding any escalation which might exacerbate tension in the region.

Libya informed *(S/1994/373)* the Council on 31 March that the League had proposed that the two Libyans allegedly involved in the bombing "be judged equitably by the Scottish judges in conformity with Scottish law, and that their trial should take place at the seat of the International Court of Justice" (ICJ) at The Hague. In an 8 December 1993 letter *(S/26859)* to Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, Libya said that Egypt, in consultation with Libya, had proposed to the United Kingdom that the two Libyan nationals be tried by a Scottish court under the legislation applied in Scotland, provided that the trial was held in a third country or at the ICJ headquarters in The Hague. No reply had been received to that proposal, Libya stated.

The Security Council, in resolution 731 (1992) of 21 January 1992, had condemned the destruction of Pan Am Flight 103 and of Union de transports aériens flight 772, and the resultant loss of hundreds of lives, and urged Libya to provide a "full and effective" response to requests by France, the United Kingdom and the United States in connection with legal procedures related to the attacks. On 15 April 1992, it imposed sanctions against Libya under Chapter VII of the UN Charter because of its continued failure to respond fully and effectively to those requests. On 11 November 1993, it imposed further sanctions and widened the air and arms embargo in place.

Peaceful, historic elections 'acceptable' But second round required

1.5 million voters at poll

UN Photo 186650/M. Grant

A voter casting his ballot on 20 March in Sensuntepeque.

The authorities in El Salvador were called upon by the Security Council on 7 April to correct the shortcomings in the first round of the presidential elections held on 20 March. In a statement by its President Colin Keating of New Zealand, the Council also called upon those concerned to "guarantee a genuine and indisputable expression of the will of the people" in the second round of elections on 24 April, as recommended by the Secretary-General.

Some 1.5 million voters, amounting to 55 per cent of the electorate, had participated in the elections—an increase of nearly 400,000, compared with the 1991 and 1989 voting.

The Council congratulated the people of El Salvador "on the peaceful and historic elections", which in general had taken place "under appropriate conditions in terms of freedom, competitiveness and security". Despite some "serious flaws" regarding organization and transparency, the elections could be considered "acceptable", the Council stated.

The UN Observer Mission in El Salvador (ONUSAL) had deployed some 900 observers of 56 nationalities, who covered all polling centres with teams numbering between 2 and 30 observers. That "massive presence of ONUSAL", Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali reported, had made it possible throughout election day to "resolve countless practical problems of organization of the voting".

In the 7 April Council statement, full implementation of the 1992 Peace Accords—signed by the Salvadorian Government and the Frente Farabundo Martí para la Liberación Nacional (FMLN) in Mexico City—was urged.

On 28 March, the Secretary-General had reported *(S/1994/361)* that progress was still required with regard to certain aspects of the Peace Accords, namely: public security, including deployment of new national civil police and phasing out of the old national police; reintegration into society, through transfers of land and other programmes, of "estranged groups including former combatants"; and the constitutional reforms recommended by the Commission on the Truth in March 1993.

Since no presidential candidate obtained more than 50 per cent of the votes, there had to be a second round, Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali reported *(S/1994/375)* on 31 March.

According to the Supreme Electoral Tribunal, Alianza Republicana Nacionalista (ARENA) had taken 49.26 per cent of the votes, and the Movimiento Nacional Revolucionario-

Convergencia Democrática-FMLN coalition received 25.29 per cent.

The other parties and their shares were: Partido Demócrata Cristiano (16.01 per cent); Partido Conciliación Nacional (5.23 per cent); Partido Movimiento de Unidad (2.39 per cent); Movimiento de Solidaridad Nacional (1 per cent); and Movimiento Auténtico Cristiano (0.82 per cent).

There had been "no significant manipulation of the election", the Secretary-General declared. The legislative assembly and municipal elections were conducted "under the same conditions as the presidential election".

Although no party contested the presidential election results, the outcome of the municipal voting was "challenged in more than 40 mayoral districts", mostly by FMLN, the Secretary-General stated. Those challenges were based on "disagreements regarding the count, especially the characterization of certain votes as invalid".

The Secretary-General said that participation was "lower than what many had been hoping for", partially attributable to "drawbacks of an electoral system" that was inaugurated in the early 1980s, which had not been corrected in time for the recent elections. First, citizens had had to "invest a considerable amount of time in order to obtain a voter card". Second, due to limited number of polling centres, voters had had to travel considerable distances to vote, he said.

Recommendations

To improve the election process, anomalies recorded in the first round should be eliminated, the Secretary-General stressed in his 31 March report.

In addition to reforming the electoral code, the number of polling centres, especially in urban areas, should be increased, electoral personnel training strengthened, normal functioning of public transport ensured, and electoral lists carefully checked and reviewed.

Having "learned with alarm" about the violence in the closing days of the electoral campaign, the Secretary-General on 13 March appealed to all parties concerned to "exercise maximum restraint and avoid resorting to violence as well as divisive rhetoric". It was "necessary for all in that long-suffering nation to work together for the full implementation of the Peace Accords, which is still pending", he said.

'Serious regression'

A "serious regression" in the human rights situation in El Salvador was reported *(A/49/59-S/1994/47)* by ONUSAL on 18 January.

The deterioration was due mostly to the "increase in politically-motivated violations" and the perpetration of crimes "similar to those committed in the past by 'death squads'", he stated in a report covering the period from 1 August to 31 October 1993.

The violence was "not aimed at any one social and political sector, but at the entire nation", as it threatened the peace agreements and the building of a democratic society, "on which there is a firm national consensus involving all political forces and the public at large", the report said.

An effective method of "isolating and eliminating" those sources of violence should be accompanied by "strict implementation of the peace agreements" and recommendations of the Commission on the Truth.

The fact that the Salvadorian Government had invited the United States' Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Scotland Yard and Spanish police experts to "advise national bodies in the investigation of assassinations of political leaders", and the establishment of a joint unit to investigate illegal armed groups, were "encouraging signs".

Enrique ter Horst of Venezuela was named the Secretary-General's Special Representative in El Salvador and Chief of Mission of ONUSAL, effective 1 April, succeeding Augusto Ramirez-Ocampo. ■

Guatemalan agreement: A 'milestone' in peace process

Agreements between the Government of Guatemala and the Unidad Revolucionaría Nacional Guatemalteca (URNG) are a "milestone in the Guatemalan peace process", the Secretary-General declared on 8 April.

Signed on 29 March in Mexico City, the agreements provided "encouraging evidence of the parties' commitment to reaching an early settlement through a comprehensive negotiating process after 30 years of armed confrontation", he said in his letter transmitting texts of the accords *(A/48/928-S/1994/448)* to the General Assembly and the Security Council.

The Comprehensive Agreement on Human Rights—the outcome of more than two years of negotiations—included a request for the early establishment of a UN verification mission.

The Timetable for the Negotiation of a Firm and Lasting Peace in Guatemala provides that a final peace agreement should be signed at the end of 1994.

In a special joint statement by the Government and the URNG, the two agreed that consideration of the issue on human rights violations during the armed conflict should be concluded, "at a special session of the negotiations, without prejudice to existing *rapprochements* on the subjects".

The talks, suspended since May 1993, were resumed on 10 January with the signing of a Framework Agreement for the Resumption of the Negotiating Process. In that document, the Secretary-General had been asked to name a moderator of the negotiations. Jean Arnault, who had participated in the talks as the UN Observer since June 1992, was assigned to that post on 9 February.

Civilian human rights observers return

UN mission faces obstacles

UN Photo/Jimmy Bu

Following a private discussion on Saturday, 5 March, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali and President Jean-Bertrand Aristide met with aides in a 38th-floor conference room.

Ten observers of the joint UN/Organization of American States (OAS) International Civilian Mission in Haiti (MICIVIH) returned to the capital city of Port-au-Prince on 26 January to "start their work anew to ensure respect for human rights", according to a Mission spokesman.

The observers at first would work only in Port-au-Prince. All competent authorities had been "informed of this movement of personnel", the Mission spokesman reported. By the end of March, the number of observers had increased to 28.

On 6 December 1993, the General Assembly, in its resolution 48/27, had asked the UN Secretary-General to do his utmost to bring MICIVIH back "as rapidly as possible".

On 20 February, the Secretary-General reported *(S/1994/203 and A/48/879)* that the situation in Haiti, including human rights, had "seriously deteriorated in the last few months". Its people were "under severe strain, notwithstanding efforts to maintain the flow of humanitarian assistance".

On 23 March, a UN spokesman reported that a small group of MICIVIH observers had been the "target of demonstrations and harassment" by civilians in Hinche, who appeared to be members of the Front Révolutionnaire pour l'avancement et le progrès haïtien (FRAPH). Dante Caputo, Special Envoy of the Secretaries-General of the UN and the OAS, expressing his indignation, strongly condemned those serious incidents, particularly because they had "occurred in the presence of military personnel", who did nothing to prevent them. Also, numerous cases of rape had been reported to MICIVIH. The Mission denounced those violations of the rights of Haitian women—which appeared to be "part and parcel of political violence and terror"—as unacceptable. It called on the high command of the Haitian Armed Forces to investigate and bring the perpetrators before the courts.

Resolution 905: UNMIH extended

On 23 March, the Security Council stated it was "deeply disturbed by the continued obstruction" to the dispatch of the UN Mission in Haiti (UNMIH), set up in September 1993, and the "failure of the Armed Forces of Haiti to carry out their responsibilities to allow the Mission to begin its work".

Seeking common ground

In unanimously adopting resolution 905 (1994), the Council extended UNMIH's mandate until 30 June and asked the Secretary-General to report to it "at such time as conditions may exist" in Haiti for UNMIH deployment "for purposes consistent with paragraph 5 of the Governors Island Agreement". Paragraph 5 provided for assistance in modernizing the Haitian Armed Forces and establishing a new police force with the presence of UN personnel in those fields.

In signing the Governors Island Agreement on 3 July 1993, exiled President Jean-Bertrand Aristide—ousted in a September 1991 coup—and Lieutenant-General Raoul Cédras, Commander-in-Chief of the Haitian Armed Forces, had agreed to a political dialogue, under the auspices of the UN and the OAS, aimed at reaching a political truce and promoting a social pact to create conditions for a peaceful transition. Under that Agreement, President Aristide was to have returned to Haiti by 30 October 1993.

Although there had been "no change in the prevailing situation in Haiti", nevertheless, a three-month extension of UNMIH's mandate would allow for the "possibility of reactivating the Mission with a minimum delay, should the current political impasse be breached and implementation of the Governors Island Agreement be resumed", Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali reported *(S/1994/311)* on 18 March.

Special Envoy Caputo and other UN staff had not ceased their "attempts to identify and encourage the establishment of common ground between the parties concerned", and recent political developments had shed "encouraging light on what has otherwise been a bleak scene", the Secretary-General stated.

In order to "promote agreement between the parties on steps which would make it possible to resume implementation of the Governors Island Agreement", Mr. Caputo had continued to work intensively with the Four Friends of the Secretary-General for Haiti—Canada, France, the United States and Venezuela—Mr. Boutros-Ghali reported on 20 February.

An important step in that regard was the conference convened by President Aristide in Miami, Florida from 14 to 16 January. There, a "consensus emerged on a sequence of steps to be taken to break the current impasse", the Secretary-General said. Further consultations between leading members of the two Houses of the Haitian Parliament were held on 19 January in Washington, D. C..

> "The Council reaffirmed its determination to ensure a return to constitutional legality"

On 19 February, members of both Houses—"representing all political tendencies in that Parliament"—had agreed on a plan to resume progress in implementing the Governors Island Agreement. These were "significant developments", Mr. Boutros-Ghali stated.

President Aristide, however, had expressed concern that such a plan would be "contradictory" to the Agreement and, therefore, could not be accepted by him, the Secretary-General added.

Honour commitments

All signatories of the UN-sponsored 16 July 1993 New York Pact—which, among other things, provided for a six-month political truce, the normalization of the Parliament, and agreements to confirm the Prime Minister—were urged on 10 February to honour their commitments.

In his appeal, the Secretary-General also said that some members of the Haitian Senate had proceeded on 5 February "to elect a new leadership of the Senate with the participation of persons elected during the 18 January 1993 elections, which have been declared illegal by the international community". On 7 February, the same Senators had "attempted to occupy the office of the legitimate leadership of the Senate".

The Secretary-General deplored those acts, stating that they constituted a "violation of the letter and the spirit of the New York Pact", according to which those individuals would voluntarily abstain from taking their seats in Parliament until a Conciliation Commission had rendered its verdict on the matter.

In addition, those acts discredited Haitian democratic institutions and impeded a solution to the political crisis in that country, it was stressed.

Fuel arrival welcomed

The imminent arrival in Haiti of a shipment of fuel, approved by the Security Council Committee established under resolution 841 (1993), was welcomed by the Council on 10 January.

In a statement by its President Karel Kovanda of the Czech Republic, the Council also reaffirmed its determination to "minimize the impact" of the ongoing crisis on the most vulnerable groups in Haiti, and welcomed the role of the Pan American Health Organization in the "management, delivery and distribution of fuel for humanitarian purposes".

Any authorities or individuals in Haiti, who might "in any way interfere with the delivery and distribution" of humanitarian assistance, or "endanger the personal security and safety of all personnel involved in such assistance", would be held responsible, the Council stated.

In addition, it reaffirmed its determination to ensure "the return to constitutional legality in Haiti". ■

Return to 'normal life' in Sarajevo urged

New agreement, cease-fires reached, but situation 'far from stable'

Bettman Photo

A symbol of normalcy: UN peace-keepers in a soccer match against Sarajevans, in the 1984 Olympics Stadium Zetra, on 20 March.

All parties to the Bosnian conflict were called upon by the Security Council on 4 March to cooperate with the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in the consolidation of a cease-fire in and around Sarajevo. In unanimously adopting resolution 900 (1994), the Council also called upon the parties to achieve "complete freedom of movement for the civilian population and humanitarian goods to, from and within Sarajevo, to remove any hindrance to such freedom of movement, and to help restore normal life to the city".

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali was asked to appoint a senior civilian official to act under the authority of the Secretary-General's Special Representative for the former Yugoslavia and to draw up an "overall assessment and plan of action" for the restoration of essential public services in the various opstinas of Sarajevo, other than Pale. William L. Eagleton of the United States was named Special Coordinator for Sarajevo on 29 March.

Taking note of the positive developments in and around Sarajevo, the Council stated they constituted "only a first step towards the restoration of peace and security throughout the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina on the basis of a negotiated settlement between the parties".

Also, by resolution 900, the Secretary-General was invited to establish a voluntary trust fund for

the restoration of essential public services in Sarajevo to promote a return to normal life in the city.

The Council asked the Secretary-General to report on the feasibility and modalities for extending UN protection, as defined in resolutions 824 (1993) and 836 (1993), to the cities of Maglaj, Mostar and Vitez.

On 16 March, the Secretary-General reported *(S/1994/300)* that the Bosnian Government forces and those of the Bosnian Serbs had withdrawn or placed under UNPROFOR control their heavy weapons in and around Sarajevo. By then, restoration of public services was reported under way in the city with the hope of extension to the country as a whole.

In a gesture of normality, a special match between Sarajevo's soccer team and a team of UN peace-keepers was organized on 20 March at the city stadium. With the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) planes and UNPROFOR helicopters overhead, the crowd cheered a 4 to 0 victory by the Sarajevans.

Overall, the tragic conflicts in the former Yugoslavia, which had involved human rights violations "on a scale unprecedented in Europe since the Second World War", constituted a "very serious test of and challenge to the international system of human rights protection", according to Tadeusz Mazowiecki, Special Rapporteur of the Commission for Human Rights.

'Unprecedented preventive deployment'

The Council call for a return to a normal life in Sarajevo was symbolic of UN efforts throughout the former Yugoslavia in early 1994 to end the three-year-old crisis.

The Secretary-General's Special Representative for Yugoslavia, Yasushi Akashi, at a 29 March press briefing, summed up recent key UN action, expressing cautious optimism, while stressing that "the situation was still far from totally stable".

Cease-fire agreements were being promoted both in Bosnia and Herzegovina and in Croatia. There had been an "unprecedented preventive deployment" of UNPROFOR troops in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, he said, in light of ethnic groups "vying for influence".

Negotiations continued under the auspices of the Co-Chairmen of the Steering Committee of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia—Thorvald Stoltenberg and David Owen. Ultimately, he said, the Bosnian Serb community would have to be brought into a federation such as the one agreed upon and signed in Washington, D.C. on 1 March by the Bosnian Presidency and the Bosnian Croat community.

The use of NATO aircraft—which occurred for the first time in late February—to protect the UN operation should be examined carefully. UNPROFOR "would not hesitate" to call for close air support from NATO "in any case where it had no other means of defending itself from a very deliberate attack", Mr. Akashi stated.

Still, he cautioned, "many years of experience in peace-keeping had taught the United Nations the limitations of force and the necessity for absolutely judicious use of it".

In other developments, the mandate of UNPROFOR was extended on 31 March for another six months until 30 September. Created in March 1992, the Force numbered around 22,000 at the end of March. In adopting resolution 908 (1994), the Council authorized an increase of up to 3,500 additional troops.

Lieutenant-General Bertrand Guillaume de Sauville de Lapresle of France was named UNPROFOR Force Commander on 1 February, to replace General Jean Cot.

Between 1 January and 31 March, the Security Council met, either formally or in consultation, on eight occasions to discuss the Yugoslav crisis, adopting two resolutions—on Sarajevo and on the UNPROFOR mandate—and issuing four statements.

Deadly attacks

A deadly mortar attack on 5 February on the central open-air market of Sarajevo—killing at least 58 civilians and wounding 142—was condemned by the Secretary-General as a "heinous act of violence". A similar attack took place in the Dobrinja suburb on 4 February, resulting in 10 deaths and 18 injuries.

UN High Commissioner for Refugees Sadako Ogata said the market massacre was "further evidence of a total disregard for human life and humanitarian principles, and plumbs new depths in calculated barbarism".

In a statement by its Chairman Peter van Wulfften Palthe of the Netherlands, the Commission on Human Rights on 8 February declared

UN Photo

Discussing moves towards peace on 17 January in Geneva.

that the deliberate and indiscriminate shelling of the civilian population of Sarajevo was "part of a pattern of despicable and outrageous violations of international humanitarian law and human rights".

On 15 February, the Secretary-General informed *(S/1994/182)* the Council that there was "insufficient physical evidence to prove that one party or the other fired the mortar bomb". An investigative team concluded that the bomb in question could have been fired by either side.

On 7 January, the Council had demanded an immediate end to attacks against Sarajevo, which had resulted in a "high number of civilian casualties, seriously disrupted essential services and aggravated an already severe humanitarian situation". In that statement by Council President Karel Kovanda of the Czech Republic, any hostilities in the UN-designated "safe areas" were condemned. The "abhorrent practice of deliberate obstruction" of humanitarian aid convoys was strongly deplored, and all parties were told to facilitate timely delivery of such assistance.

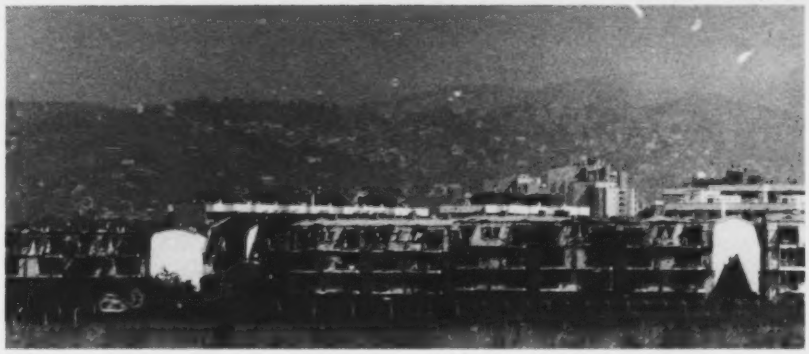
The Council reaffirmed its commitment to implement all its relevant resolutions, in particular resolution 836 (1993), by which it had authorized UNPROFOR to use force to protect Sarajevo and five other Bosnian towns previously declared as "safe areas".

Operation 'Deny Flight'

In the first action by NATO forces to quell ongoing violations of the "no-fly" zone, four aircraft were shot down on 28 February near Banja Luka. UNPROFOR Commander Cot said NATO fighters from "Operation Deny Flight" engaged six Galeb ground support aircraft flying in violation of Council resolution 816 (1993), which prohibits unauthorized flights by all fixed-wing aircraft and helicopters in the airspace of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Two NATO warnings were ignored, a UN spokesman stated.

From 1 January through 31 March, some 405 violations of the ban on unauthorized flights in Bosnia and Herzegovina were reported, bringing to 1,565 the total number of apparent violations since monitoring began in November 1992 under Council resolution 781 (1992).

UN Photo 159299/J. Isaac



Bomb-damaged buildings near the Sarajevo airport.

Good faith needed

Efforts to find a negotiated solution to the Bosnian conflict—based mostly on the *HMS Invincible* package that was concluded in September 1993—were continued throughout January, February and March.

"With most areas of an agreement now accepted by all three sides, the few areas outstanding can indeed be resolved through the demonstration of good faith and genuine willingness to achieve a negotiated solution", Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali stated on 7 January.

At resumed talks on 18 and 19 January in Geneva, President Alija Izetbegovic of Bosnia and Herzegovina acknowledged that the Muslim-majority Republic was being offered 33.56 per cent of the territory within the proposed Union of three Republics, the Co-Chairmen of the Steering Committee reported *(S/1994/64)* on 21 January.

However, the Bosnian President suggested that the map be altered to include in the territory allocated to the Muslim-majority Republic "certain areas in eastern and western Bosnia where the Muslims had been in the majority before the outbreak of the conflict", as well as certain areas in central Bosnia, "while keeping within the target of 33.3 per cent".

To overcome that sticking point, establishment of an arbitration commission was proposed by the Co-Chairmen, but the Bosnian Muslims rejected the idea. The Bosnian Serbs stated then that they would be "unwilling to remain within a Union of three republics".

At the next round of talks (Geneva, 10-12 February) "all three sides had expressly reiterated their acceptance of a Union of Republics", the Co-Chairmen reported on 12 February. It was also agreed that during the European Union administration of Mostar and the UN administration of Sarajevo "final territorial delimitations would be worked out".

Also, the Bosnian Serbs agreed to negotiate a separate agreement on Sarajevo "in advance of an overall peace agreement", the Co-Chairmen said. But the Bosnian Presidency did not want to discuss that matter "until Serb withdrawal of heavy weapons was complete".

Although the concept of arbitration was accepted by all three sides, the Bosnian Presidency stated that, before an arbitration procedure could be used, there should be withdrawal of military forces from the areas in question.

The Co-Chairmen stated that they then consulted the parties on other possible avenues for overcoming the hurdle over the disputed territories and even asked them to suggest other possible procedures for reaching agreement, but no such suggestion was forthcoming.

Finally, it was agreed that the parties were to consult bilaterally and to have discussions with the special

envoys of the Russian Federation and the United States.

Meanwhile, the working group of the International Conference on ethnic and national communities and minorities drew attention to the situation of Albanians in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, where broad consensus necessary for a breakthrough had not yet materialized. Other working groups and organs dealt with: the humanitarian situation; succession issues; economic issues; confidence- and security-building and verification measures; and arbitration.

Croatian withdrawal demanded

Strongly condemning Croatia for deploying elements of its Army, along with heavy military equipment, in central and southern parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Security Council on 3 February demanded their withdrawal.

In a statement by its President Roble Olhaye of Djibouti, the Council qualified Croatia's actions as a "serious hostile act" against a UN Member State, constituting a violation of international law, the UN Charter and Council resolutions, and demanded full respect for Bosnia's territorial integrity. If Croatia failed to immediately end "all forms of interference" in Bosnia, the Council would consider "other serious measures".

Cease-fire in UNPAs

A cease-fire agreement, aiming to "achieve and assure a lasting cessation of hostilities", was concluded on 29 March in Zagreb by the Government of Croatia and the local Serb authorities in the UN Protected Areas (UNPAs), the Secretary-General reported *(S/1994/367)* to the Security Council on 30 March.

Under that accord—signed in the presence of Deputy Foreign Minister Vitaly Churkin of the Russian Federation and Ambassador Peter Galbraith of the United States, and witnessed by representatives of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia and the UNPROFOR Force Commander—the parties agreed that all armed hostilities between them should end immediately, and a "cease-fire on all contact lines" should be "fully respected from 900 hours, 4 April 1994".

Other provisions provided for: separation of all units on the contact line; deployment of all indirect fire weapons out of range of the lines of separation, based on a mutual withdrawal not less than 1,000 metres from the contact line; cease-fire monitoring; establishment of joint commissions at all levels; and opening of a number of crossing points along the contact line.

The agreement said that "not later than 900 hours on 19 April 1994", the parties were to meet and negotiate the modalities for a reduction of forces in a 10-kilometre zone on either side of the contact line.

Earlier, Croat and local Serb authorities in Croatia had moved towards a cease-fire, with their Christmas Truce Agreement and its 13 January extension.

Bosnian-Croat agreements

A "very positive initiative", said Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali in welcoming the agreement reached on 1 March by the Bosnian Government and the Bosnian Croats to unite territories under their control within a federation.

The accord—the Framework Agreement on a Federation in the areas with a majority Bosnian and Croat population and the Outline of a Preliminary Agreement for a Confederation between Croatia and the Federation—was signed in Washington, D.C., under United States auspices.

The Steering Committee Co-Chairmen also welcomed the package and expressed gratitude to the United States for facilitating it. They said it was important that the two parties were reviving a relationship which had been strained by intense fighting in Central Bosnia and Mostar since 1993.

On 6 February, a cease-fire and disengagement agreement had been concluded under UNPROFOR auspices between the Bosnian Government and the Bosnian Croats.

However, the Co-Chairmen stressed that peace would not be achieved in Bosnia and Herzegovina until the three constituent peoples of the Republic agreed to a comprehensive settlement. They said they would help all parties to settle their differences, with the continuing assistance of the United States and the Russian Federation. In that regard, they welcomed the agreement reached on 1 March in Moscow to reopen the Tuzla airport.

On 24 March, the Secretary-General stated *(S/1994/333)* that Tuzla was a "unique place" in Bosnia where Serbs, Croats and Muslims co-existed "in the midst of tragic inter-communal conflict". An early start of a humanitarian

UN Photo 159206/S. Whitehouse

UNPROFOR ambulances in the streets of Vukovar, Croatia.

airlift to Tuzla would "help ensure the welfare of the inhabitants of the wider Tuzla area and their ability to begin the reconstruction and rehabilitation of a region gravely affected by war", he said.

Resolution 908: UNPROFOR extended, reinforced

The Security Council on 31 March adopted resolution 908 (1994), extending the mandate of UNPROFOR until 30 September and authorizing an increase of up to 3,500 additional troops.

It also decided to consider, by 30 April at the latest, further troop requirements recommended by the Secretary-General, "with a view to providing UNPROFOR with the means necessary for the implementation of its mandate".

The Council approved UNPROFOR's plans to reopen Tuzla airport for humanitarian purposes and called on Member States to contribute personnel, equipment and training in support of those activities.

Member States, the Council stated, might take "all necessary measures to extend close air support" to the territory of Croatia, in defence of UNPROFOR personnel in the performance of its mandate, under the Council's authority and in close coordination with the Secretary-General and UNPROFOR. The Force was authorized to carry out tasks relating to the cease-fire entered into by the Bosnian Government and the Bosnian Croats.

The Council demanded that the Bosnian Serb party "cease forthwith all military operations against the town of Maglaj and remove all obstacles to free access to it". It called on the parties to honour their commitments to ensure the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and UNPROFOR unimpeded access throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina in performance of their mandates.

All concerned were called upon to cooperate with UNPROFOR in reaching and implementing an agreement on confidence-building measures in all regions of Croatia, including the UNPAs.

Also, the Council urged the parties to "seize the opportunity provided by UNPROFOR's continuation to bring the peace process to a successful conclusion".

The Council on 22 March agreed that Turkey be added to the Member States authorized to contribute military personnel to UNPROFOR.

An improvisational approach?

An increase of UNPROFOR's strength by some 8,250 additional troops, 150 military observers and 275 civilian police monitors was needed to implement Council resolution 900 on Sarajevo's situation, the Secretary-General reported *(S/1994/291)* on 11 March.

Due to the lack of military resources, UNPROFOR had been "forced to approach its many responsibilities in an improvisational manner", he lamented. It needed additional troops in order to "avoid losing the newly gained initiative".

The continuing conflict and tragedy in UNPROFOR's area of operations had led to "considerable, but unjustified, criticism" of the Force's effectiveness, the Secretary-General stated *(S/1994/300)* on 16 March. That, together with "mounting threats to the safety and security" of UN personnel and the "continuing failure of Member States to honour their financial obligations to UNPROFOR" had led him to consider seriously whether the continuation of the Force justified the UN's "enormous expenditure of resources"—over $1.6 billion as of 28 February—and lives—924 casualties, including 79 fatalities, in its two years of existence.

The diversity and scope of the Yugoslav problems required the "deployment of more military forces" than troop-contributing nations were prepared to make available, the Secretary-General observed.

An increase of UNPROFOR's strength by four mechanized infantry companies—one mechanized infantry battalion of 1,000 all ranks)—and four engineer companies—(of 600 all ranks)—was recommended *(S/1994/367)* by the Secretary-General on 30 March. Also, a helicopter squadron of at least six helicopters with 200 all ranks was required to effectively monitor the provisions of the 29 March cease-fire agreement between the Croatian Government and the local Serb authorities in the UNPAs in Croatia, the Secretary-General stated.

Maglaj siege

An immediate end of the nine-month siege of Maglaj—for which, it was stated, the Bosnian Serb party was primarily responsible—was demanded by the Security Council on 14 March. In a statement by Council President Jean-Bernard Merimée of France, it also strongly condemned the "indiscriminate shelling by the Bosnian Serb party" of the civilian population of Maglaj, which had resulted in "heavy casualties, loss of life and material destruction".

Noting with particular concern reports of "recurrent obstruction and looting of humanitarian aid convoys" and appalled that not one convoy had reached Maglaj since 25 October 1993, the Council demanded that the Bosnian Serbs and the Bosnian Croats allow immediate and unconditional passage to all humanitarian convoys and evacuation of those in need of urgent medical attention.

Recent attacks against UNPROFOR and UNHCR personnel were also condemned, as the Council demanded that the Bosnian Serb party permit "unimpeded and continuing access" by UNPROFOR to Maglaj.

Deep concern over the blockage of vital humanitarian convoys to the Maglaj-Tesanj pocket in north-central Bosnia was expressed by High Commissioner Ogata on 10 March. "I strongly condemn the continued refusal by the warring sides to allow life-saving humanitarian aid to reach the innocent people of this pocket".

UNHCR estimated that more than 60,000 people might be trapped in the predominantly Muslim area. Surrounded by Bosnian Serb forces, it

included a largely Bosnian Croat enclave—Usora—in the north. Bosnian Croat forces were present south of the pocket on the main access road to Maglaj town, where at least 16,000 people were living in appalling conditions. The last UNHCR convoy had entered Tesanj on 10 December 1993.

Support for NATO ultimatum

Wide support for the 9 February decision of NATO, at the request of the UN, to use air strikes to halt attacks on Sarajevo was expressed during a Security Council discussion held on 14 and 15 February. Such a threat, however, must be seen in the wider context of political negotiations, speakers stressed.

Convened in response to urgent requests from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Pakistan and the Russian Federation, the two-day discussion involved a total of 58 speakers, but no formal action was taken.

During Council debates, delegates expressed concerns that the use of air strikes could harm UNPROFOR troops in Bosnia. Several troop-contributing States supported the NATO ultimatum calling for the withdrawal of all heavy weapons from Sarajevo within 10 days under threat of force.

Recalling that resolution 836 (1993) provided for the use of all necessary means, including air strikes, to protect UN designated "safe areas", some speakers wanted air strikes against areas such as Bihac, also under Serbian attack.

Calls were also made for: lifting the arms embargo against Bosnia and Herzegovina so it could exercise its right to self-defence under Article 51 of the Charter; changing the venue, from Geneva to New York, of the negotiations within the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia; and bringing to justice those who had committed war crimes.

Bosnia and Herzegovina believed that the NATO ultimatum was "most welcome and overdue". For those who only understood the language of force and the logic of war, the use of air strikes was the first step to counter their aggression and terrorism, it stressed.

France said the NATO action had the sole aim of providing the UN with the means of implementing Security Council decisions, and the first priority was to lift the siege of Sarajevo.

Those responsible for the recent shelling of civilian populations in Sarajevo must be punished, the Russian Federation stressed. International efforts must now focus on ending the conflict and preventing further bloodshed.

The United States believed that the Bosnian conflict should be resolved at the negotiating table, not on the battlefield. But "our diplomacy must be backed by a willingness to use force", for it was "only force plus diplomacy" that could "stop the slaughter in Sarajevo and break the stalemate in Geneva", it stated.

Contesting the airstrikes

The NATO decision to undertake airstrikes was contested by the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro).

On 16 March, Yugoslavia presented an application to the International Court of Justice against the NATO Member States, claiming that the decision breached Articles 2 (4) and 53 (1) of the UN Charter, by "threatening to use force without the authorization of the Security Council and in the form of an ultimatum".

On 18 January, the Secretary-General informed *(S/1994/50)* the Council that operational arrangements for provision of NATO air power to support UNPROFOR in defending UN personnel who "may come under deliberate attack" had been in place since August 1993, tested in a number of exercises and were fully operational.

Tribunal: 'New prospects'

The mandate of the International Tribunal for the prosecution of persons responsible for serious violations of international humanitarian law committed in the territory of the former Yugoslavia opened up "fundamentally new prospects for the punishment of war crimes", Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali stated on 21 January.

Although such crimes had "long been condemned by international law", the law, however, lacked an institution, the Secretary-General told the Tribunal's second session (17 January-11 February, The Hague). The new judicial body—also empowered to judge "all those who managed to have a hand, whether directly or indirectly, in the planning and preparations for human rights violations"—set an example for the future, he stressed.

In the post-cold-war era, the international community had to "invent new responses and find new solutions" to deal with confrontations which divide and tear peoples apart even inside individual States, Mr. Boutros-Ghali observed. "To build a diplomacy of democracy and human rights is one of the main challenges of our times".

During the four-week session, the Tribunal approved rules of procedure and evidence, based on both its Statute adopted by the Council in resolution 827 (1993) of 25 May and customary international law.

The new rules placed a strong emphasis on the obligation of nation States to cooperate with the Tribunal and take all necessary steps to comply with any of its orders, including the enactment of national legislation, where necessary, to remove any impediment to the surrender or extradition of suspects or accused.

The Tribunal's primacy over national court proceedings on the same subject matter was also confirmed. That would be especially important if it appeared that national court proceedings were not impartial or were designed to shield the accused from international criminal responsibility.

Claude Jorda of France was appointed Judge of the Tribunal until 17 September 1997, replacing Germáin Le Foyer de Costil of France, who had resigned effective 1 January. Theodoor C. van Boven of the Nether-

UN Photo 159256/J. Isaac

A Kenyan peace-keeper with Croatian children.

lands was named Acting Registrar of the Tribunal on 21 January.

War crimes Commission

Reports on preliminary investigations of mass graves in the UNPAs in Sector East and Sector West in Croatia were considered by the Commission of Experts established under Security Council resolution 780 (1993), at its eleventh session on 16 February in Geneva. The Commission was created to examine and analyse information on possible breaches of the Geneva Conventions and international humanitarian law in the territory of the former Yugoslavia.

The Commission approved an outline of its final report to the Secretary-General, after which it was to terminate its activities. Progress made in the ongoing investigations into destruction of cultural property and other violations of international humanitatian law, and into sexual assaults, rape, torture and detention camps, was also reviewed.

At its tenth session (12 January, Geneva), the Commission considered its cooperation with the Prosecutor of the International Tribunal, including the transfer of information in its possession.

The Commission's other ongoing studies—to be incorporated in its final report—included: sexual assault/rape investigation; the battle and siege of Sarajevo; "ethnic cleansing"; prison camps; mass graves; Dubrovnik; the battle of Vukovar, Medak and the Prijedor area.

Stupni Do massacre

The main suspects for crimes committed on 23 October 1993 in the village of Stupni Do "appear to be extremist elements of the Croatian Defense Council from Kiseljak, Travnik and Kakanj under the command of Ivica Rajic", the Secretary-General reported *(S/1994/154)* on 10 February.

An UNPROFOR investigation in Stupni Do—a small predominantly Bosnian Muslim village near the town of Vares, with some 224 Muslim residents and 11 refugees—determined that there had been 36 victims. All 52 houses in the village "showed signs of having been burnt", some had the "appearance of crematoria". About 14 bodies were discovered, most "burned beyond recognition", the Secretary-General said.

Evidence gathered would be used to identify the perpetrators for eventual trial before the International Tribunal.

Human rights violations

The conflicts in the former Yugoslavia, particularly in Bosnia and Herzegovina, had once again proved that "human rights only play a secondary role in the context of international politics", Commission on Human Rights Special Rapporteur Mazowiecki reported *(S/1994/265)* on 1 March.

A number of formal steps which had been undertaken might be considered as a "substitute or excuse for political inertia", he said. The enormous efforts and sacrifices of the field officers of various international agencies had not compensated for that policy.

The international community had "tolerated massive violations of human rights and international humanitartian law", Mr. Mazowiecki said. Such a policy undermined some of the most fundamental principles upon which international law and the "system of human rights protection" had been built.

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, he said, the "terrorization of civilian populations" and "ethnic cleansing" continued. Military attacks, such as sniper shootings, indiscriminate shelling, bombing and land-mining, as well as the "willingness of the belligerents to employ access to aid as an instrument of war", constituted flagrant violations of human rights and humanitarian law.

Although all sides had been guilty of such practices, the scale of those deeds as committed by Bosnian Serb and Bosnian Croat forces exceeded that of the other warring parties, the Special Rapporteur stressed.

In Croatia, the practice of "illegal and forced evictions" by the Croatian armed forces, as well as forced recruitment of Bosnian refugees, continued. Other causes for deep concern were: the continuation of "ethnic cleansing" in the UNPAs; Croatia's support, including direct involvement of its army, for Bosnian Croat forces which had been responsible for "ethnic cleansing" and other grave human rights violations in areas under their control; and the urgent need for humanitarian assistance for refugees and displaced persons.

Serious human rights violations in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia were also noted with concern, such as: the use of "brutal and excessive force" by the police; public incitement to "discrimination and hatred against ethnic and religious groups"; restrictions on the freedom of expression, especially the control of the media by the State; "refoulement and forced recruitment of refugees"; and "abusive and discriminatory treatment against ethnic and religious groups" in Kosovo, Sandzak and Vojvodina.

In the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, a "certain amount of progress" in eliminating discriminatory practices was noted. The Special Rapporteur said, although progress had also been accomplished as far as freedom of the media was concerned, full pluralism in that regard had not been achieved.

In Slovenia, in spite of all the difficulties attributed to the transition to a democratic society, the human rights situation was "by and large satisfactory", he reported. The fact that the country had met the conditions to obtain membership on the Council of Europe spoke for itself. The Special

Rapporteur recommended that Slovenia, "barring any unforeseen circumstances, should be excluded from his mandate".

Disappearances, children of war

The problem of disappearances was a "very serious one" throughout the former Yugoslavia, Special Rapporteur Mazowiecki reported. And "worse still", it was growing rapidly. The UN was seized with more than 11,000 cases of missing persons and the number might grow to 15,000 in the coming months.

The plight of children was highlighted. "What they experience will have long-term repercussions for themselves and for the society to which they belong", Mr. Mazowiecki stated.

The rights of children had been "completely disregarded", he went on. Children were often victims of "ethnic cleansing", sniper and mortar attacks, "actively forced" to watch the killings of their parents or caretakers, subjected to detention and torture, and deprived of food. Violations of human rights, such as indiscriminate shelling of civilian centres and sniper attacks, were "quite often directed against children".

'Operation ReUNite'

A high-tech computerized programme, "Operation ReUNite"—aimed at collecting and distributing information about children separated from their parents as a result of the Yugoslav conflict—was launched by UNHCR on 22 March.

Based on CD-ROM technology, the project was to send optical discs to 10 computerized centres in the former Yugoslavia and Western Europe where parents could scan files. One such disk—containing details and digitalized photographs of some 500 children—had already been prepared, UNHCR reported.

While many children knew where their parents lived, precise data on others were sketchy. Some, for example, could not remember their surnames or birth dates. The programme would enable parents to cross reference the computer files using nicknames, approximate age, sex, hair color and other data.

All parent/child information gathered during the operation was to be shared with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)—the main body responsible for tracing and family reunification. UNHCR estimated that from 40,000 to 60,000 unaccompanied minors were scattered over 20 countries, with some 20,000 in Croatia.

100,000 tons topped

On 4 April, with the arrival of a Canadian C-130 cargo plane, the UNHCR airlift of humanitarian aid to Sarajevo had passed the 100,000 metric-ton mark.

For nearly two years, the international airlift had provided Sarajevo's 380,000 people with life-saving food, medical and other humanitarian supplies, surpassing in duration the Berlin airlift of 1948-1949, the UNHCR said. With land convoy routes often blocked, the airlift had been essential for the besieged city's survival. In some months, it had provided more than 90 per cent of the city's humanitarian aid requirements.

Currently, military aircraft from six nations, as well as planes from the ICRC and the United Kingdom's Overseas Development Administration, were participating in the operation, which was coordinated by UNHCR and UNPROFOR.

Averting catastrophe

Despite "numerous obstructions" by the warring parties, the UNHCR-led

The saddest word . . .

"War is the saddest word that flows from my quivering lips", wrote 12-year-old Maida from Skopje in *I Dream of Peace: Images of War by Children of Former Yugoslavia*, a collection of writings and drawings from the former Yugoslavia. "It is a wicked bird that never comes to rest. . . . War is the evilest of birds, turning streets red with blood and the world into an inferno."

In a new book published by the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), the cruel Yugoslav conflict is seen through the eyes of Maida and more than 50 other children in the former Yugoslavia.

To be published in 10 languages in more than 18 countries—with a combined international first edition of some 200,000 copies—*I Dream of Peace* takes readers on a four-part journey into the hearts and minds of children whose secure world has been brutally turned upside down.

One entry, entitled "Cruel war", shows the immensity of the destruction wrought on their surroundings. Another—"The day they killed my house"—is a more intimate look at the anguish of the children. "My nightmare" vividly renders the horrors they have been forced to internalize. "When I close my eyes, I dream of peace", completes the horrifying voyage.

"In these pages", UNICEF Executive Director James Grant wrote in the introduction to the book, "the children deliver a serious message to adults: Understand the cruelties of this war and what it is doing to us, your children! Do whatever it takes to end it. Take our child's eye view of the promises and possibilities of peace!"

The writings and drawings in *I Dream of Peace* were created in 1992 and 1993 in schools and refugee camps on all sides of the conflict, as part of UNICEF's psychosocial programme for war-traumatized children in the former Yugoslavia. After three years of war, there are now nearly 4 million refugees, of whom more than 600,000 are children. An estimated 15,000 children have died and many more have been gravely injured.

UNICEF Photo 5144/John Isaac

A mother and child in a Sarajevo hospital—victims of the ongoing conflict.

humanitarian aid effort in Bosnia and Herzegovina was keeping hundreds of thousands of people alive. High Commissioner Ogata reported on 19 January. But still, less than 50 per cent of food requirements had been met.

"I am particularly concerned about innocent civilians in places like Maglaj, Tesanj, east Mostar, Gorazde and parts of central Bosnia", she said. "We all know about the brutality of this war, but it is absolutely unconscionable that children in Maglaj have been reduced to skin and bones; that 65,000 people in Gorazde are denied children's shoes and shelter materials to keep out the cold; that 55,000 people in east Mostar have to live beneath the rubble of their destroyed city."

Apart from deliberate blocking of humanitarian aid, hungry civilians in central Bosnia were looting convoys and warehouses because their own leaders were reportedly diverting food to the military, UNHCR reported.

"The tragedy of Bosnia is that the commitment of all parties to allow unimpeded access for the delivery of aid has not been honoured", Catherine Bertini, Executive Director of the World Food Programme (WFP), said on 3 February. Food distribution was currently averaging only 40 to 50 per cent of the minimum requirement and was becoming increasingly dependent on expensive airlift and airdrop operations.

Attacks on international relief personnel continued. A British relief worker—Paul Goodall—was killed and two others were injured on 27 January, when an armed gang hijacked their vehicle near Zenica, in Bosnia. Mr. Goodall was the eleventh person killed while working with the UNHCR relief operation in the former Yugoslavia.

Ban flouted

The Security Council on 14 March strongly condemned the flagrant violation by the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia of its ban on the shipment of commodities and products to that country. It acted after a 6 March incident in which a Bulgarian convoy, using the Port of Prahovo on the Danube River, transported 6,000 tons of diesel oil to Yugoslavia.

In a statement by Council President Merimée, it held the Yugoslavian authorities fully accountable for the non-return of the convoy's cargo, and invited them to respect its commitments to guarantee the freedom and security of navigation on the Danube. The Bulgarian Government was also invited to assess the precise circumstances of the incident and to prosecute those responsible for it.

On 22 February, the Security Council Committee established under resolution 724 (1991) concerning Yugoslavia had stated that the neighbouring States deserved "much credit for the enforcement of the sanctions" mandated by the Council.

In other news, a border crossing point between Albania and Yugoslavia was approved by the Security Council Committee. At that crossing point, located at Hani i Hotit in Albania, the passage of all freight vehicles into or out of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia "shall not be prevented", Committee Chairman Ronaldo Mota Sardenberg of Brazil stated on 31 March.

Thus far, the Committee had approved the location of the road and rail border crossing points between Yugoslavia and Albania, Bulgaria, Croatia, Hungary, Romania and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM).

Greece/FYROM

On 10 March, representatives of Greece and the FYROM had separate meetings with Secretary-General's Special Envoy Cyrus Vance in Geneva.

Greece believed that the authorities in Skopje had to meet the Greek requirements "before a dialogue could be resumed", the Secretary-General reported *(S/1994/376)* on 31 March. The FYROM wanted to first lift those requirements, and suggested a resumption of direct discussions under UN auspices, in order to find a "balanced solution to contentious issues".

Special Envoy Vance told the parties that the situation was "increasing in its gravity", and that if a mutually agreeable settlement could not be reached, "peace in the region might be put at risk". He urged them to "redouble their efforts to find common ground".

To help them do so, Mr. Vance submitted a "draft accord confirming the existing frontier as an inviolable international border and establishing measures for confidence-building, friendship and neighbourly cooperation", the Secretary-General said. ■

Lack of agreement reported on confidence-building package

Lack of agreement has been reported on the package of confidence-building measures presented by Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali to the two parties to the Cyprus situation. In a 4 April report *(S/1994/380)*, he said that the Turkish Cypriot side had objected that the draft ideas presented on 21 March contained changes to the confidence-building measures as first presented in July 1993, and that they favoured the Greek Cypriot side. Among the measures proposed are those to open the town of Varosha and the Nicosia International Airport.

The Turkish Cypriot side cited in particular proposals on security of access between the UN-controlled buffer zone and Varosha, the arrangements concerning traffic rights at Nicosia International Airport, the implementation schedule for the package, and the collection of customs duties by the UN in both areas, the Secretary-General stated.

The Greek Cypriot side had stated that while it did not like many of the changes, it would accept the revised proposals if the Turkish Cypriot side would do likewise.

The Secretary-General said the package offered "real benefits" to both sides, and high-level contacts with them to secure an agreement would continue, he stated.

The Security Council on 11 March had stressed the need for the two parties to conclude without delay an agreement on the implementation of the confidence-building measures. Reiterating that the status quo was unacceptable, the Council welcomed the parties' acceptance in principle of the measures, and the fact that intensive discussions had allowed the Secretary-General's representatives to put forward ideas facilitating an agreement.

In unanimously adopting resolution 902 (1994), the Council reaffirmed that the measures, while not an end in themselves, would offer significant benefits to both communities and would facilitate the political process towards an overall settlement.

Opening new vistas

In a 4 March report on his mission of good offices in Cyprus *(S/1994/262)*, the Secretary-General had called an agreement on the confidence-building measures " the most important development on the island in two decades", which would open a new and more positive vista for the future. It would, he said, produce important economic gains for both sides and promote the kind of relationship that should exist in a federation.

The Secretary-General gave a detailed account of the intensive discussions that Special Representative Joe Clark and his Deputy, Gustave Feissel, had undertaken since January 1994. On 27 January, President Glafcos Clerides, leader of the Greek Cypriot community, had reaffirmed his acceptance of the package. On 28 January, His Excellency Rauf Denktash, leader of the Turkish Cypriot side, had accepted in principle and said that he was ready to discuss the modalities for the package's implementation.

During proximity talks beginning 17 February, each side clarified its position to the point where it was felt that the Secretary-General's representatives could put forward ideas to reconcile their positions and help the leaders reach a formal agreement on the package quickly.

A paper entitled *"Draft ideas for the implementation of the package of confidence-building measures"*, taking into account many of the points raised by each side, was presented to each leader on 9 March. After extensive discussions with both leaders, an adjusted version of the draft ideas was prepared and presented to them on 21 March.

The Turkish Cypriot leader voiced numerous objections to that version, stating that it contained changes from the wording of the July 1993 package in favour of the Greek Cypriot side.

Seven main issues

The 4 March report detailed the agenda of the proximity talks, citing the seven main issues: the UN administration of the fenced area of Varosha and of Nicosia International Airport; the schedule for implementing the package of confidence-building measures, including the dates of reopening Varosha and the Airport and their reconstruction and restoration; an arrangement for making the fenced area of Varosha a special area for bicommunal contact and commerce, a particularly important element of the package; an agreement on traffic rights at the Airport; technical safety of the Airport's operation; opening the Airport for civilian passenger and cargo traffic, and access for and between both sides; and agreement to 12 other confidence-building measures for implementation as soon as formal agreement on the package was achieved.

On 1 February, the Secretary-General told the press that the purpose of the confidence-building measures was to facilitate direct contact between the two communities. Their younger generations did not know each other because over the last 20 years, there had been no direct contact. ■

Security Council condemns 'appalling' Hebron massacre

Expressing shock over the "appalling massacre" of Palestinian worshippers in the Mosque of Ibrahim in the West Bank town of Hebron on 25 February, during the holy month of Ramadan, the Security Council on 18 March called for measures to "guarantee the safety and protection of the Palestinian civilians throughout the occupied territory", including a "temporary international or foreign presence" within the context of the ongoing peace process.

Implementation without delay of the Declaration of Principles on Palestinian Interim Self-Government Arrangements—signed by Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) on 13 September 1993 in Washington, D.C.—was also urged. The Council asked the United States and the Russian Federation—as co-sponsors of the peace process—to continue their efforts to invigorate it.

The resolution as a whole was adopted without a vote following a paragraph-by-paragraph vote, in which the United States abstained on two preambular paragraphs. Specifically, it opposed the description of the territories occupied during the 1967 war as "occupied Palestinian territory", and the particular reference to Jerusalem, the status of which was to be addressed at a later stage of the peace process.

AP/Wide World Photos

A young victim of the mosque shooting is carried into a Jerusalem hospital on 25 February.

In adopting resolution 904 (1994), the Council also strongly condemned "the massacre in Hebron and its aftermath which took the lives of more than 50 Palestinian civilians and injured several hundred others". It called upon Israel to continue to take measures, including confiscation of arms, with the aim of "preventing illegal acts of violence by Israeli settlers".

M. Nasser Al-Kidwa, Observer for Palestine, said that every single Council resolution on the Palestinian issue had contained language referring to Jerusalem as part of the occupied territories. Any attempt to change that language carried the danger of a change in policy. Arab East Jerusalem was an integral part of the occupied Palestinian territory, he said. All Israeli measures aimed at changing Jerusalem's status were legally null and void, he declared.

Gad Yaacobi of Israel said his country shared the Council's support for implementation of the Declaration of Principles. However, reference to Jerusalem was incompatible with that Declaration, by which both parties agreed to address the issue not later than the beginning of the third year of the interim period. It called upon the Palestinians, Syria, Jordan and Lebanon to return to the peace talks.

'Despicable act'

The shootings at the Hebron mosque were condemned "in the strongest possible terms" by Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali on 25 February. Having learned of that "despicable act of violence" with "revulsion and outrage", he was also deeply concerned by the unrest generated throughout the occupied territories in reaction to that incident, and its possible impact on negotiations between the PLO and Israel.

The Secretary-General appealed for calm on the part of all concerned, so that the implementation of the Declaration of Principles might proceed without delay. He also called on the Israeli authorities to take "all necessary measures to ensure that settlers refrain from such criminal acts".

"This murderous violence must be unreservedly condemned", General Assembly President Samuel R. Insanally of Guyana stated on 25 February. Everything must be done to prevent or punish those acts, as well as to "calm the unrest which such crimes can only provoke".

UN Photo/JimBu

The Council adopted resolution 904 (1994) on 18 March.

The massacre of innocent Palestinian worshippers and the consequent "outbreak of violence leading to loss of lives in the Palestinian occupied territories" were also deplored by the Commission on Human Rights.

Also on 25 February, Commissioner-General Ilter Turkmen of the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) said he was "stunned and saddened at this unprecedented loss of life. The magnitude of the casualties and the circumstances of the attack are truly appalling." UNRWA had immediately mobilized its resources to assist the affected Palestinians, Mr. Turkmen added. It had directed its ambulances to the Hebron area and sent blood and other medical supplies to the hospitals in Hebron and elsewhere. The Agency had also helped to redeploy medical staff to assist Hebron hospitals where victims were treated.

Council debate

Widespread support for an international presence to protect Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied territories was expressed in the Security Council, as it discussed (28 February-2 March) the situation in the occupied Arab territories.

The dangerous situation caused by the Hebron massacre called for urgent and decisive measures by the Council and Israel to "save the peace process", Palestine told the Council on 28 February. Israel should adopt "real changes in policy" regarding the settlements and settlers in the occupied territories, it said. Settlers must be disarmed and the settlements dismantled.

Israel condemned the "criminal murder" of Palestinian worshippers which, it said, had been committed by a single individual. Extremists on both sides believed they could derail the peace process, but they were wrong, it stressed. A number of steps—including establishing a Commission of Inquiry, and measures against radical elements in the territories—had been taken in response to the massacre. Israel called upon the Palestinians to return to the negotiating table and "put an end to 100 years of war and terrorism".

Also taking part in the Council three-day discussion were representatives of Egypt, Pakistan, Tunisia, Jordan, Lebanon, Afghanistan, United Arab Emirates, Libya, Malaysia, Ukraine, Syria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Indonesia, Greece (on behalf of the European Union), Algeria, Kuwait, Turkey, Sudan, Iran, Japan, Senegal, Mauritania, Bangladesh, Bahrain and the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

Resolution 895: UNIFIL extended

The mandate of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) was extended by the Security Council on 28 January for six months, until 31 July. In unanimously adopting resolution 895 (1994), the Council also called upon all parties concerned to cooperate fully with the implementation of the mandate.

Responding to the request of Lebanon, the Council reiterated its strong support for the territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of that country within its internationally-recognized boundaries.

Following the resolution's adoption, Council members asserted that "any State shall refrain from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State".

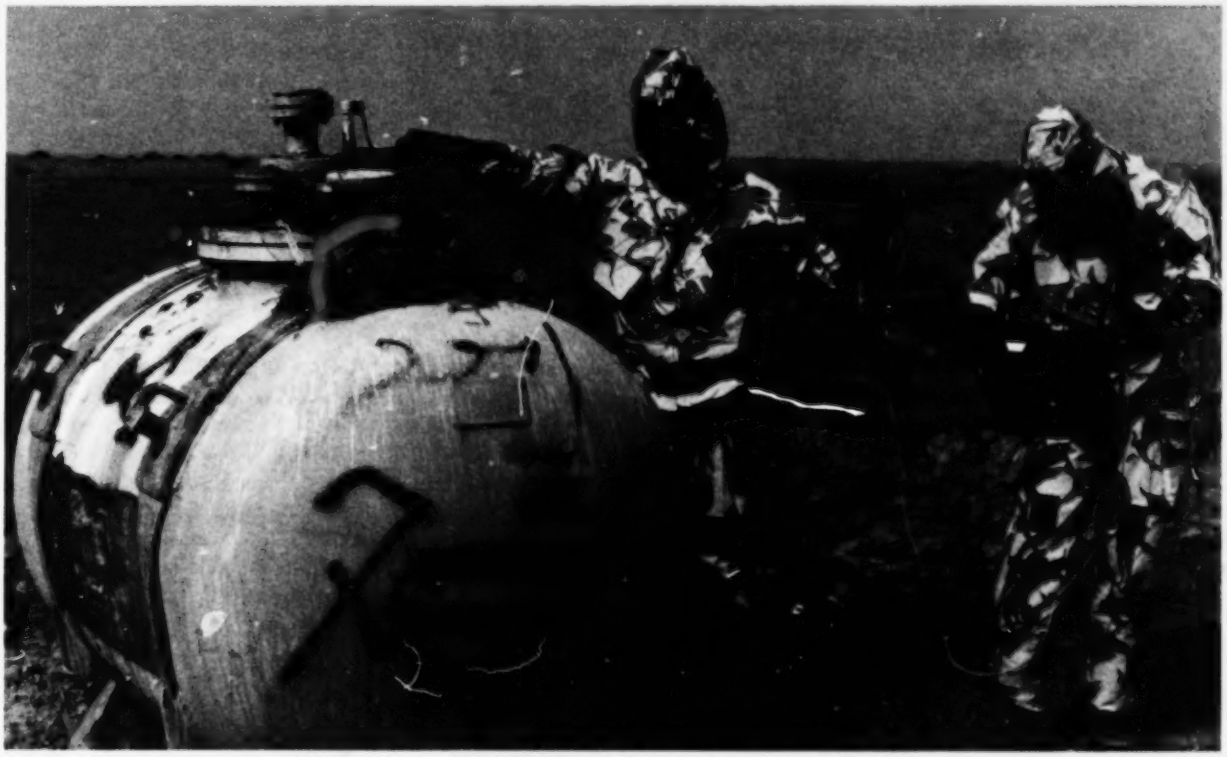
In a statement by its President Karel Kovanda of the Czech Republic, the Council expressed concern over the continuing violence in southern Lebanon and urged all parties to exercise restraint. Full support was reiterated for the continued efforts of the Lebanese Government to consolidate peace, national unity and security in the country, "while successfully carrying out the reconstruction process."

Established by Council resolution 425 (1978), the Force was to monitor the withdrawal of Israeli forces from southern Lebanon and assist the Lebanese Government in ensuring the return of its effective authority in the area. ■

UNRWA: Peace Implementation Programme

In a New Year's message, Ilter Turkmen, Commissioner-General of the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), noting that recent signing of accords between the PLO and Israel had changed the prospects for peace in the Middle East, stated that the Agency had responded quickly to the needs of Palestinians for jobs and better living conditions by launching a $100 million Peace Implementation Programme on 6 October 1993. Special attention would be given to improving levels of services not only to refugees living in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, but also to those in Jordan, Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic.

Chemical warfare agents destroyed, Special Commission reports



Members of the UNSCOM chemical destruction group at Muthanna.

The UN Special Commission on Iraqi disarmament (UNSCOM), set up under Security Council resolution 687 (1991), has virtually completed the destruction of Iraq's declared and recovered stockpiles of chemical warfare agents, it was reported on 25 March.

In all, the Chemical Destruction Group of the Special Commission destroyed some 400,000 litres of sulphur mustard at the Muthanna site, nearly 28,000 chemical munitions (rockets, missile warheads, artillery shells and bombs), nearly 83,000 litres of nerve agents, more than 1,220,000 litres of key precursor chemicals for the production of mustard or nerve agents, and some 421,000 litres, 1,035,500 kilogrammes and 197 barrels of other chemical precursors.

A small amount of other precursor chemicals remained to be destroyed at Muthanna, in addition to quantities of equipment for the production of chemical warfare agents. Thereafter, a comprehensive survey of the site was to be conducted to ensure that no chemical warfare hazard remained in the area. Any additional items for destruction discovered during this survey would be dealt with at that stage.

It was suspected that there might be 155-millimetre mustard-filled artillery shells buried at the site. Iraq agreed to assist the Commission in identifying and recovering those munitions, after which they would be destroyed.

The Commission also reported the removal on 12 February of a second and final consignment of highly-enriched uranium (HEU) in the form of irradiated nuclear fuel, thus completing the removal of declared stocks of nuclear-weapons grade material from Iraq. In the course of inspections, it was revealed that Iraq had separated gram quantities of plutonium. The separated plutonium was removed from Iraq by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in 1991.

The irradiated fuel was removed under a contract with the Russian Ministry of Atomic Energy and a United States subcontractor which supplied specially-designed casks capable of withstanding an airplane crash. The Iraqi Atomic Energy Commission provided all necessary assistance, and the fuel was removed in two shipments under close supervision of IAEA inspectors.

After dilution to lower enrichment at the Chelyabinsk facility in the Russian Federation, the residual materials will be available for sale under IAEA supervision for use in peaceful nuclear

activities. Reprocessing of the fuel is expected to take six months.

No chemicals in southern Iraq

The Special Commission announced on 28 February that it had not found any traces of chemical weapons in samples taken and analysed from the marsh region of southern Iraq, following allegations that the Iraqi military had used such weapons against opposition forces in early September 1993. The Commission launched an investigation in November, which included a fact-finding mission to Iran and an on-site inspection in Iraq, during which time portable sensors were unable to detect traces of chemical warfare agents. The team concluded that it was unlikely that a chemical-weapons attack had occurred.

A large number of flora, fauna, water, air and soil samples, divided into three sets, were taken for laboratory analysis. Each set was sent to three laboratories in the United States, the United Kingdom and France. Analysis done in the United Kingdom and the United States laboratories confirmed that the samples contained no traces of chemical warfare agents.

The Commission's twenty-first ballistic missile inspection team has assessed the capabilities and the potential use in missile production activities of some 14 sites located in and around Baghdad. The inspection, conducted from 17 to 25 February, focused on identifying effective monitoring procedures for those sites.

High-level talks

Sanctions against Iraq were maintained after the Security Council President on 18 January announced, following consultations, that there was no agreement that the necessary conditions existed for their modification.

High-level talks were held in New York from 14 to 19 March by the Special Commission and the IAEA with the Iraqi Government. Rolf Ekéus, Executive Chairman of the Special Commission, reported *(S/1994/341)* to the Secretary-General on 19 March that Iraq had stated that the ongoing monitoring and verification regime was already in place and that it had met all the requirements of Council resolution 687. Iraq said the Commission and the IAEA should recommend that the Council lift the existing oil embargo. It felt that the Commission was acting out of political motives inconsistent with its mandate.

The Commission had replied that Iraq had not yet completed all the actions necessary to have the sanctions lifted as specified in resolution 687. The system of ongoing monitoring and verification adopted by the Council had to be put in place, and doing so would require many additional actions on the part of Iraq. The Commission and the IAEA had only one objective: to fulfil to the Security Council's satisfaction their technical mandates as soon as feasible.

UN Photo 177915/E. Debebe

Mr. Ekéus

Executive Chairman Ekéus held talks in Baghdad with the Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister from 2 to 5 February. In a joint statement, they said that the breakthrough in relations between Iraq and the Special Commission achieved in July 1993, at which time Iraq had indicated its readiness to comply with the provisions of the plans of ongoing monitoring and verification under resolution 715 (1991), had been consolidated.

The two sides expressed readiness to expedite the ongoing monitoring and verification process in a spirit of goodwill, in order to achieve their joint objective of reporting to the Council that Iraq had complied with the requirements of resolution 687.

The Commission had indicated that it would continue the phase of inspections already initiated. Iraq indicated that it would welcome all such inspection teams and facilitate their tasks.

Other matters

The Security Council on 4 March decided that compensation payments could be made to certain Iraqi private citizens relocated from Kuwait to Iraq as a result of the official demarcation of the international boundary between the two States. In unanimously adopting resolution 899 (1994), the Council concurred with the Secretary-General's view that such payments would be for humanitarian purposes, notwithstanding resolution 661 (1990), which prohibited the remittal of funds to persons or bodies in Iraq.

On 22 February, the Secretary-General had described arrangements for the payments. After an assessment by an independent contractor, he determined that relocated citizens would receive 56 million Iraqi dinars for 95 farms and 15.5 million Iraqi dinars for 206 residential houses. Kuwait was to pay that amount into a trust fund established for the purpose, including all costs and expenses incurred by the UN.

The Council on 8 April informed *(S/1994/411)* the Secretary-General that it had reviewed the question of termination or continuation of the UN Iraq-Kuwait Observer Mission (UNIKOM), as well as its modalities of operation. The Council concurred with the Secretary-General's recommendation that UNIKOM be maintained, and decided to review the question again by 8 October 1994.

A UN spokesman on 6 April expressed extreme concern over the increasing number of attacks on foreigners in northern Iraq. The UN Guard Contingent in Iraq has a mandate to protect UN and non-governmental organization personnel carrying out humanitarian programmes. ■

Ethnic conflicts, turmoil persist

Observer status granted to CIS

Armed conflicts, ethnic strife, political turmoil and violence, economic disruption and rapidly growing refugee populations—those problems persisted in some former Soviet Republics, especially Armenia, Azerbaijan and Tajikistan, as the UN continued to monitor those situations throughout January, February and March.

On 24 March, noting the desire of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)—a loose alliance of 12 former Soviet Republics—to "foster its cooperation" with the UN, the General Assembly granted it observer status *(resolution 48/237)*.

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, during a five-day official visit (1-5 April) to the Russian Federation—the second during his tenure—met with top Russian officials, including President Boris Yeltsin, Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev, and Defence Minister Pavel Grachev.

While in Moscow, he also attended a 4 April signing ceremony of an agreement related to a comprehensive settlement of the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict *(see p. 37)*.

Tajikistan

The agreement of the Tajik parties to begin a political dialogue on national reconciliation, reached in March, was called a "welcome development" by the Secretary-General on 4 April *(S/1994/379)*.

The first round of talks was to be held in Moscow, under UN auspices, with subsequent sessions set for Teheran and Islamabad on a rotation basis, he said. Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan, the Russian Federation and the Central Asian States were invited to participate as observers.

The overall situation in Tajikistan, especially on its borders with Afghanistan, remained "unstable and explosive", the Secretary-General said. Armed opposition groups engaged in "cross-border infiltration" and fighting with government forces on a daily basis while continuing attacks inside the country.

Instability and fighting in Afghanistan continued to have a "negative effect" on Tajikistan, with a real danger and "unpredictable negative consequences" for peace and security in the region as a whole, he stated.

Another "alarming dimension" was the danger of "confrontation along ethnic lines". Serious tension already existed in the southern Tajik province of Khatlon, the Secretary-General reported, and a confrontation between Tajiks and Uzbeks in Afghanistan could "easily spill over to Tajikistan and other Central Asian States".

The country's economy also continued to deteriorate rapidly, he reported. The transportation system was "paralysed, owing to the severe shortage of fuel", many industrial enterprises were closed, and there were food shortages and interruptions of electricity and water supply.

Refugees

An appeal for more than $30 million to support programmes for hundreds of thousands of refugees and internally displaced people in the Caucasus and central Asia was launched by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) on 15 March.

The appeal covered a wide range of UNHCR assistance programmes for: Tajikistan ($13,180,000), Azerbaijan ($6,988,400), Armenia ($4,307,700), Georgia ($3,831,400), and Tajik refugees and asylum seekers in Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan ($1,720,000). It also included $1,306,100 for some 14,000 refugees from Georgia in the Krasnodar region of southern Russia.

According to UNHCR, ethnic conflicts raging throughout some of those areas and regions had resulted in about 2 million refugees and displaced persons.

Chernobyl: 'Numerous deficiencies'

Numerous safety deficiencies in the two units that remain operational at the Chernobyl nuclear plant in Ukraine were found by an International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) assessment team examining the current safety situation at the plant from 7 to 17 March.

Of particular concern were specific problems in the design of the first-generation Unit 1, which had "not been dealt with sufficiently". Also, a "number of factors that together affect overall safe plant operation" were identified. Difficult working conditions and a serious continuing loss of highly skilled personnel were major problems, as was limited procurement of up-to-date equipment, the IAEA reported.

Also a major problem was the "accelerated deterioration" of the shelter enclosing the destroyed Unit 4 reactor, which would have serious consequences if it collapsed.

On 21 March, IAEA Director-General Hans Blix told President Leonid Kravchuk of Ukraine that international safety levels were "not currently being met" at Chernobyl. In view of the seriousness of the situation, he suggested that Ukraine convene a meeting of interested countries, possibly in Vienna, to consider ways to alleviate the problem.

President Kravchuk favoured the suggestion, stressing that his Government viewed the group's findings as a "significant input" to the objective evaluation of the safety level at the Chernobyl plant. ■

Two major accords signed

Peace-keepers stationed at the Inguri dam in Georgia.

The signing of two accords—"Declaration on measures for a political settlement of the Georgian/Abkhaz conflict" and "Quadripartite Agreement on voluntary return of refugees and displaced persons"—on 4 April in Moscow by the Georgian and Abkhaz sides was called by the Security Council on 8 April an "encouraging event, laying the basis for further progress towards the settlement of the conflict".

In a statement by its President Colin Keating of New Zealand, the Council welcomed the conclusion of the third round of negotiations between the two sides on a comprehensive political settlement, under the aegis of the UN with the assistance of the Russian Federation as facilitator. Representatives of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees had also attended.

The Council urged both parties to observe strictly the cease-fire and other commitments under the accords, and "use the atmosphere of constructive cooperation", which had emerged to resolve other outstanding key issues.

The Council wanted "substantive progress towards a political settlement" during the next rounds of negotiations, so it could "adequately consider the possible establishment of a peace-keeping force in Abkhazia, Republic of Georgia". Support for the return of all refugees and displaced persons to their homes in secure conditions was also reaffirmed, as the Council expressed "hope for fruitful results" of the Quadripartite Commission's work on the issue.

Resolutions 906, 901, 896: UNOMIG extended

Urging the Georgian and Abkhaz sides to take all necessary steps to ensure the security of personnel of the UN Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG) and its "freedom of movement" throughout Georgia, the Security Council on 25 March extended the Mission's mandate for an additional interim period, until 30 June.

In unanimously adopting resolution 906 (1994), the Council asked the Secretary-General to report any progress in negotiations by no later than 21 June and on the situation on the ground, with "special attention to circumstances which might warrant a peace-keeping force and on the modalities for such a force".

All concerned were once again called upon to respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Georgia. The right of all refugees and displaced persons to "return to their homes in secure conditions throughout Abkhazia" was stressed.

Earlier, the Council had extended UNOMIG's mandate on two occasions: on 31 January, in resolution 896 (1994), until 7 March; and on 4 March, in resolution 901 (1994), until 31 March.

Established under Council resolution 858 (1993) of 24 August, UNOMIG, with some 22 personnel, was originally to verify the 27 July cease-fire agreement between Georgia and the forces in Abkhazia—a small Black Sea region attempting to secede from Georgia.

'Extremely tense' situation

The situation between the Georgian and Abkhaz sides continued to be "extremely tense", the Secretary-General reported *(S/1994/253)* on 3 March. It had worsened as a result of renewed fighting in the Gali region, "leading to more deaths, destruction of homes and refugee flows".

A paradox existed, he said. Both parties wanted a UN peace-keeping force to be deployed. Georgia had made an appeal for such a deployment, but the Abkhaz side—by not conceding to the Council's demand that all concerned recognize Georgia's territorial integrity—was "in effect preventing the UN from responding to a call for assistance from a Member State and blocking the orderly return of refugees", the Secretary-General stated.

Although conditions for the deployment of a peace-keeping force at that time did not exist, the international community should not abandon its efforts, he said *(S/1994/312)* on 18 March. Both parties needed outside help to assist them to "find the road to peace". At the same time, they could not expect the international community to "maintain that assistance indefinitely if they do not both show a readiness to start rebuilding confidence and reconciling their differences", the Secretary-General stressed. ■

Task of nation-building 'monumental'

UNHCR Photo/22051/K. Gooi

The new Government is laying the foundation for a democratic system. *Above*, returnees at work.

The challenge before the international community is to respond speedily and effectively to the needs of Cambodia as it undertakes the monumental task of nation-building. So stated UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali in a message to the second meeting of the International Committee on the Reconstruction of Cambodia (Tokyo, 10 and 11 March).

"Today, Cambodia has re-emerged as a sovereign, independent nation, one that is seeking to meet the profound aspirations of its people for peace and a better future", he said. Towards that end, the new Government had taken "a number of significant measures in recent months to lay the foundation for a democratic political system and to rebuild the country on the basis of a market-based economy". But the task of reconstruction had only just begun, the Secretary-General stated.

Since the Ministerial Conference on the Rehabilitation and Reconstruction of Cambodia in Tokyo on 22 June 1992, the world had witnessed nothing less than the rebirth of a new nation. Following the extraordinarily successful election last May, a new democratic Constitution had been promulgated and a new Government established, with King Norodom Sihanouk as Head of State.

In a 14 February report *(S/1994/169)* on the activities of the UN Military Liaison Team in Cambodia, the Secretary-General stated that despite ongoing efforts to reach a political settlement, hostilities had continued between the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces (RCAF) and the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea (NADK).

The First Prime Minister, Prince Norodom Ranariddh, had met twice with Khieu Samphan, the head of the Party of Democratic Kampuchea (PDK), to discuss the issue of integrating NADK into the mainstream political establishment, the Secretary-General added.

The Cambodian Government felt strongly that NADK would have to agree to a cease-fire before serious discussions could take place, while NADK had stated it would continue fighting until a suitable framework for political participation was established.

After the formation of a multi-party transitional government in September 1993, the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) left the country. A 20-member military liaison team was established in November to monitor continuing concerns for the Secretary-General.

The team reported that between 15 November 1993 and 31 January 1994, internal security in Cambodia had become more precarious following the departure of UNTAC. The depressed state of the economy, low morale among the armed forces and the widespread availability of weapons had aggravated the situation. A large number of thefts and armed robberies had been reported and banditry was widespread. Several vehicles and office equipment belonging to the liaison team had been stolen, often at gunpoint. However, government departments responsible for law and order were being strengthened and Cambodia had entered into bilateral agreements with other countries in support of these efforts.

On 28 March, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) strongly protested Thailand's decision to repatriate some 25,000 Cambodians after they fled recent fighting in north-western Cambodia between the RCAF and the NADK.

Noting the "fragile and volatile situation" in certain parts of Cambodia, High Commissioner Sadako Ogata said she hoped that should other influxes occur, the Thai Government would cooperate with UNHCR to identify appropriate solutions. UNTAC, in coordination with UNHCR, helped repatriate some 370,000 Cambodian refugees from Thailand and elsewhere during a year-long operation completed in advance of the UNTAC elections.

On 29 March, Benny Widyono was appointed as the Secretary-General's Representative for Cambodia. ■

Completion of inspections urged

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) was called upon by the Security Council on 31 March to allow the inspectors of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to complete the inspection activities agreed to by the Agency and the People's Republic on 15 February.

That would be a step in fulfilling DPRK's obligations under its safeguard agreement with IAEA and under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), the Council said in a statement by its President Jean-Bernard Merimée of France.

The Council also expressed its concern that IAEA had been "unable to draw conclusions" as to whether there had been "either diversion of nuclear material or reprocessing or other operations" in DPRK. It invited the Director-General to further report on the question of completion of the inspection activities when he is scheduled to report on the follow-on inspections required to "maintain continuity of safeguards" and verify that there had been "no diversion of nuclear material required to be safeguarded".

DPRK and the Republic of Korea were asked to renew discussions on the implementation of the Joint Declaration on the Denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. The Council appealed to Member States engaged in dialogue with the People's Republic to continue that dialogue. The Council would further consider the matter if necessary "in order to achieve full implementation of the IAEA-DPRK safeguards agreement".

Deep appreciation was expressed for IAEA efforts to implement the safeguards agreement.

'Further non-compliance'

The Agency's Board of Governors stated in a 21 March resolution that DPRK was "in further non-compliance" with its safeguards agreement and had aggravated the situation by not allowing IAEA inspectors to conduct "indispensable inspection activities". The Board regretted the stalemate in the Agency's efforts to resolve the safeguards issue, which it said was "due to the lack of cooperation" on the part of the DPRK.

As agreed by the Agency and the People's Republic, an IAEA inspection team visited DPRK from 1 to 15 March. IAEA Director-General Hans Blix reported *(A/49/97-S/1994/322)* on 22 March.

Inspection activities had proceeded "without difficulty at all facilities except the radiochemical laboratory". For the first time, the inspectors had been able to perform a "physical inventory verification" of the nuclear material at the fuel-rod fabrication plant, Mr. Blix said.

> "On some points related to detection, commitments made in Vienna were disregarded"

Difficulties at the radiochemical laboratory had centred on inspection activities agreed upon in Vienna and designed to "restore continuity of knowledge through taking samples and smears". Such samples, as well as gamma-mapping, could indicate "whether operations have taken place in facilities where cameras have ceased to operate and seals have been broken", he reported.

Although IAEA had made clear to DPRK that it was indispensable for the Agency to perform all the activities which the People's Republic had previously accepted, on "some points central to the Agency's ability to detect any diversion of nuclear material", the DPRK side had "permitted itself to disregard commitments made in Vienna" on 15 February, the report said.

'A la carte approach'

IAEA Director-General Blix told correspondents on 25 March in New York that the Agency's main concern was "how much plutonium the People's Republic had and whether it was producing more".

The radiochemical laboratory—where IAEA inspectors had not been allowed to undertake the necessary examination—could be used to separate plutonium from spent nuclear fuel, Mr. Blix said. According to DPRK, the facility had been used in 1990 for that purpose. But IAEA inspections in 1992 suggested that that had occurred on more than one occasion, and there could be more plutonium than the amount declared, although it was not possible to say how much more, he said.

As a result of its most recent inspection, the Agency could not exclude that in the period since its 1993 inspection the radiochemical plant had been operated, the Director-General stated.

In 1993, IAEA had requested to see two non-declared sites, which it had reason to believe were related to nuclear waste and which could shed light on DPRK's nuclear programme, Mr. Blix recalled. That request had led to a crisis and, after that incident, the DPRK had allowed only inspections for maintenance of surveillance and containment equipment in two facilities. Such an "à la carte approach" to safeguards was unacceptable, he concluded. ■

1994 session cites 'increased need for disarmament'

With the end of the cold war, the disarmament process had "become a reality", stated Gerard Errera of France, President of the Conference on Disarmament, at the opening of the first part of the body's 1994 session (25 January-31 March, Geneva).

However, he said, if a rule of international security was to be subscribed to and respected by as many States as possible, it had to be drawn up jointly and provide for "collective means of implementation". The time had passed "when two super-Powers could negotiate a disarmament treaty between themselves and then submit it for endorsement by the international community".

In his message to the multilateral negotiating body, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said: "The end of bipolarity had not diminished, but had rather increased the need for disarmament." The disarmament process should be seen as an "integral part of preventive diplomacy, peacemaking, peace-keeping and peace-building". And, although the Conference's tasks were daunting, the momentum created by the "many positive breakthroughs of the past year needed to be maintained".

Of particular note was the Conference decision to launch negotiations on a treaty for a comprehensive nuclear-test ban. Welcomed in General Assembly resolution 48/70, that decision was a "culmination of the efforts of the international community as a whole to bring about the long cherished goal of the total prohibition of nuclear testing", he stressed.

Four committees established

In adopting its agenda, the Conference on 25 January agreed to start work immediately on a nuclear-test ban, prevention of an arms race in outer space, effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, and transparency in armaments. Four relevant Ad Hoc Committees were established.

The Ad Hoc Committee on a Nuclear-Test Ban was to negotiate intensively a universal and multilaterally and effectively verifiable

UN Photo

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, in meeting with members of the Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters on 12 January in Geneva, explored ways to assist positive developments in arms control and disarmament during 1994 and beyond.

comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty, in order to contribute effectively to the prevention of the proliferation of nuclear weapons in all its aspects, to the process of nuclear disarmament and, therefore, to the enhancement of international peace and security.

It was to take into account all existing proposals and future initiatives, as well as the work of the Ad Hoc Group of Scientific Experts to Consider International Cooperative Measures to Detect and Identify Seismic Events. At least two working groups—on verification and on legal and institutional issues—were to be created.

Among other agenda items were: cessation of the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament; prevention of nuclear war, including all related matters; new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons; radiological weapons; and a comprehensive programme of disarmament.

The Conference appointed a Special Coordinator—Gerald Shannon of Canada—to seek the views of Conference members on the "most appropriate arrangement" to negotiate a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices. Lars Norberg of Sweden was appointed Special Coordinator on the review of the agenda of the Conference, and Luiz Lampreia of Brazil was appointed Friend of the Chair on expansion of membership of the Conference.

The Conference approved the participation of 47 non-member States in its work during 1994.

Vladimir Petrovsky, Director-General of the UN Office at Geneva, was confirmed on 31 March as the Secretary-General of the Conference and the UN Secretary-General's Personal Representative to that body. He had performed those responsibilities on an interim basis since 5 December 1993.

The 38-member Conference—the sole multilateral disarmament negotiating body—consists of five nuclear-weapon States (China, France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom and the United States), other militarily significant States, and non-aligned countries, known as the "Group of 21".

Test ban supported

In debate, a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty was widely supported.

The United States said it was pursuing two major goals in that regard—the "broadest possible participation", since that was the only way it could fully meet overall non-proliferation objectives, and "cost-effective, robust monitoring and verification measures", to guard against those who might seek to violate its prohibitions.

The Russian Federation, favouring the earliest completion of negotiations, felt it would be counterproductive to link such a ban with any other issues concerning arms control or the strengthening of international security.

China wanted conclusion of a treaty no later than 1996 and said it was actively participating in negotiations on an effectively verifiable instrument that would attract universal adherence.

Algeria, on behalf of the "Group of 21", said that a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty and an international instrument on negative security assurances, together with other nuclear-arms limitation measures, were essential elements of an "effective international regime of nuclear non-proliferation in all its aspects". Advancement of those objectives would decisively influence the outcome of the 1995 Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference.

Membership

If the Conference really wanted to comply with the role of a universal negotiating body, it should "subscribe to the objective of an extended membership soon", Wolfgang Hoffmann of Germany who assumed the Conference presidency, stated on 24 February in Geneva. That was particularly evident in view of the forthcoming negotiation of a comprehensive ban, he said. The "mounting frustration and anger" of States, which had been applying for membership for years, was understandable.

"Any avenue for a possible solution to the deadlock" should be explored, Mr. Hoffmann stressed. "The future of the Conference on Disarmament is at stake." ■

DISARMAMENT NOTES

Preparatory Committee for NPT Review Conference

Jayantha Dhanapala of Sri Lanka was unanimously endorsed for the presidency of the 1995 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), at the second session (17-21 January, New York) of the Preparatory Committee for the Conference. A programme of work, rules of procedure, agenda and final documentation were also discussed.

Two more Committee sessions are scheduled from 12 to 16 September 1994 in Geneva, and from 23 to 27 January 1995 in New York.

The Review Conference will be held in New York from 17 April to 12 May 1995.

Chemical Weapons Convention: First anniversary

Some 154 States have signed and four have ratified the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction, since its signing ceremony on 10 January 1993 in Paris, reported The Hague-based Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, charged with the Convention's implementation.

The Convention—to be of unlimited duration—is to enter into force 180 days after the deposit of the sixty-fifth instrument of ratification, but in no case earlier than two years after its opening for signature.

'Unprecedented expansion' not matched by financial support

An "unprecedented expansion" of UN peace-keeping and peace-making responsibilities had generated optimism among Member States, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali reported on 14 March. That optimism was reflected in their support for peace-keeping operations and in the "greatly enlarged circle of States actively participating in them, providing unprecedented levels of personnel, equipment and other facilities", he stressed.

Regrettably, the same level of support had "not extended to the payment of financial contributions" assessed on Member States to meet UN peace-keeping expenses, the Secretary-General lamented.

More than a year ago, a "chasm had developed" between the Organization's tasks and the financial means provided to it. "Today, this chasm is wider than ever before", Mr. Boutros-Ghali stated *(A/48/403-S/26450)*. He was particularly concerned that funds were routinely withheld for long periods of time, even after a peace-keeping operation had been established, its budget approved, perhaps even after troops were contributed to it. That led to "delays and makeshift arrangements", resulting in "inefficiencies and, very often, increased costs".

Also, troops assigned for UN duty had to be fully operational on arrival in their area of operation, and that must remain the responsibility of each Member State, the Secretary-General stressed. The UN should not "take upon itself the task, for which it does not now have the capacity", of providing the troops with essential equipment.

On the other hand, troop-contributing Governments had a right to expect timely reimbursement from the Organization, which had not always been possible because of the shortfall in assessed contributions. As a result, a number of Member States found it difficult to participate in peace-keeping operations, Mr. Boutros-Ghali stated.

He was also concerned by this development, not only because it limited the UN capacity for action, but also because "it erodes the Organization at its core, which is the compact among Member States to unite their strength and take effective collective measures to maintain international peace and security".

UN Photo/Y. Nagata

Although the Secretary-General shared in the general consensus that the UN should be given the "capacity to direct and support its peace-keeping operations worldwide and around the clock", he was against—on grounds of efficiency and economy—suggestions to establish within the UN a "large general staff with spare capacity to cope with peak workloads that might arise in the future", Mr. Boutros-Ghali stated. Instead, he had opted for a "rather lean staff within the Department of Peace-keeping Operations, in conjunction with an appropriate division of labour with other departments".

The optimism of a year ago had been diminished as a result of difficulties in the field, especially in Somalia and former Yugoslavia, the Secretary-General observed. However, the issues of international peace and security were "usually complex", and it was "only realistic to consider in peace-keeping the possibility of setbacks or even failure", he stressed. Nevertheless, when setbacks occurred, the UN operations, as well as the Organization's credibility, became "politically vulnerable".

It could be argued that the UN had "overextended itself in peace-keeping" since it maintained 17 such operations and a number of other political missions in the field, and the Secretary-General had himself long felt that it suffered from "excessive expectations".

The response to such a state of affairs "cannot be to play it safe or to retreat to inaction", Mr. Boutros-Ghali stressed. The UN must pursue the objective of building a peaceful international order "with patience and perseverance to fulfil the obligations and the promise embodied in the Charter". ■

Peace-keeping: High on agenda

The successful completion of the largest peace-keeping operation in the history of the United Nations—the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC)—and the establishment of new peace-keeping missions—in Haiti, Georgia, Liberia, and Rwanda—highlighted the Security Council's precedent-setting year of 1993.

The Council met a record number of 171 times during 1993, adopting a total of 93 resolutions. The number of meetings surpassed the previous high of 168 held in 1948, when the Organization established its first peace-keeping operation—the UN Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO)—to monitor a truce in Palestine.

Commission confronts 'new realities'

109 texts adopted at six-week session

The UN Commission on Human Rights, at its fiftieth session, encountered both breakthroughs and difficulties in adapting its focus to what have been described as the "new realities" of a "new era in human rights" that emerged during the landmark World Conference on Human Rights, held in Vienna in June 1993.

Many hoped, according to Commission Chairman Peter Van Wulfften Palthe of the Netherlands, that the outcome of the Vienna Conference "would spill over into the Commission and make our work here a bit easier". In some cases, he continued, the Commission had adapted to those new realities.

But on many other issues, he said in a closing statement on 11 March, "it seemed that old disagreements were more marked because of a sort of negotiating fatigue". In general, "our aims should be succinct, but also far-reaching". He urged continued attempts "to make the words produced here matter to those suffering from atrocities and deprivation".

On 3 March, new High Commissioner for Human Rights Jose Ayala Lasso promised impartiality and objectivity, stating he would not be motivated by undesirable selectivity or inappropriate political considerations. He would invite all Governments as soon as possible to open their doors to him "so that all human rights issues could be considered in a frank and unbiased way". Among his chief concerns were the rights of women, children and indigenous peoples, as well as the issues of arbitrary detention, torture and the right to free expression.

Those issues figured prominently among the 109 resolutions and decisions adopted at the six-week session (31 January-11 March, Geneva). The Commission established a new post of Special Rapporteur to investigate violence against women; created a working group to elaborate guidelines for a possible draft optional protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography; urged priority consideration for establishing a permanent forum for indigenous people; and cited a system of periodic visits by independent experts to places of detention as a highly effective way to prevent torture.

Conference follow-up

In following up the results of the 1993 World Conference, the Commission reaffirmed the urgency of eliminating denial and violations of human rights, and decided to review annually the progress towards full

An original painting by Chinese artist Ting Shao Kuang—"Light for Human Rights"—was featured on a first-day cover issued by the World Federation of UN Associations.

implementation of the Conference's two important documents: the Vienna Declaration and the Programme of Action.

It endorsed Conference recommendations supporting a comprehensive UN programme to help States strengthen national structures, which have a direct impact on the overall observance of human rights and the maintenance of the rule of law. The Commission also urged completion by 1995 of a draft declaration on the right and responsibility of individuals, groups and organs of society to promote and protect universally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Global issues

Delegates demonstrated a growing concern over the global issues of development, environment and human rights aspects of changing geopolitical circumstances, especially in South Africa and the Middle East.

The Commission condemned for the first time anti-Semitism in a text on contemporary forms of racism. A Special Rapporteur was to examine "incidents of contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, any form of discrimination against blacks, Arabs and Muslims, xenophobia, negrophobia, anti-Semitism and related intolerance".

The dismantling of apartheid and the democratic elections in South Africa prompted the Commission to replace its long-standing agenda item entitled "Adverse consequences for the enjoyment of human rights of political, military, economic and other forms of assistance given to the racist and colonialist regime of South Africa" with "Monitoring and assisting the transition to democracy in South Africa". A Special Rapporteur was to undertake two missions to that country in 1994 to gain further insights into the whole process of transition to democracy.

South African authorities were urged to repeal remaining discriminatory apartheid laws and expedite measures to speedily and unconditionally abolish all the remaining "homelands" and reincorporate them in South Africa.

Situations in the Middle East and the former Yugoslavia continued to prompt Commission action. The continual refusal of the Bosnian Serb authorities to permit the Commission's Special Rapporteur to investigate in the territory under their control was condemned, and concern for serious human rights violations in Croatia was expressed. The Commission noted an improvement of the situation in Slovenia and decided that it should be excluded from the work of the Special Rapporteur, whose mandate was extended for one year.

> "There was growing concern over human rights aspects of changing geopolitical circumstances"

The rape and abuse of women in the areas of armed conflict in the former Yugoslavia was strongly condemned and outrage was expressed that rape was being used as a weapon of war and of ethnic cleansing.

The Commission also strongly condemned human rights violations committed by the authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) against ethnic Albanians in Kosovo.

Vulnerable groups, minorities

Alarmed at persistent reports that massive violations of children's rights continued worldwide, particularly those related to the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, the Commission set up two groups to develop guidelines for a draft optional protocol on those issues and to elaborate a draft Optional Protocol to the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child. The Commission endorsed recommendations to strengthen preventive strategies to tackle the root causes of those practices.

Grave concern was expressed at the plight of street children and the serious consequences of armed conflicts for children.

The mandate of the Special Rapporteur on traditional practices affecting the health of women and children was extended, so that a plan of action to eliminate such practices could be ready this year.

Work was to proceed on a draft Declaration on the rights of indigenous people, to reflect the value and diversity of cultures and the forms of social organization of indigenous people. Plans for an International Day of Indigenous People were to be considered.

The Special Rapporteur on cultural and intellectual property of indigenous peoples was to expand her study, with a view to elaborating draft principles and guidelines for the protection of the heritage of indigenous peoples. A second progress report was asked on the study on treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements between States and indigenous populations.

States were urged to cooperate fully with the Special Rapporteur to monitor implementation of the 1993 Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities.

The Commission also called on States to ensure the full enjoyment of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights by people with acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS). A review of national legislation and practice should be made to ensure the right to privacy of those people.

States were further urged to take constitutional, legislative, adminis-

trative and other necessary measures to promote the 1992 Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities; to ratify the 1990 International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families; and to contribute to the UN Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery. Ways to establish an effective mechanism for implementing the various Conventions on slavery should be pursued.

Right to development

Calling for the heads of international financial institutions to be invited to participate actively in the activities of the working group on the right to development, the Commission urged the working group to consider policies that would help create an international economic climate more responsive to the needs of developing countries. Foreign debt payments should not take precedence over people's basic rights to food, shelter, clothing, employment, health services, and a healthy environment, the Commission affirmed in another resolution.

Recognizing that environmental damage had potentially negative effects on human rights and the enjoyment of life, health and a satisfactory standard of living, the Commission stated that the right to development should be fulfilled so as to equitably meet developmental and environmental needs of present and future generations.

Financial institutions were to be asked to consider organizing an expert seminar on their role in the realization of economic, social and cultural rights. States were called upon to involve representative trade union organizations in effective processes of popular participation and development.

The Commission approved the organization of a seminar on extreme poverty and denial of human rights, to be held by 17 October 1994—the International Day for the Elimination of Poverty.

Detainees, allegations

Expressing concern at the extensive occurrence of detention of persons who exercised their right to freedom of opinion and expression, the Commission appealed to all States to ensure respect and support for the rights of those persons. It deplored the fact that some Governments had not acted on the recommendations by the working group on enforced disappearances and urged them to give serious consideration to inviting the working group to visit their countries.

The Commission recommended that interrogation of detainees should take place only at official interrogation centres and should be duly recorded, and that the blindfolding or holding of detainees during interrogations should be absolutely forbidden.

Governments were called upon to heed the recommendations of the working group on arbitrary detention, and provide more resources to institutions concerned with the administration of justice.

Member States were also urged to: provide adequate and prompt information concerning the arrest and detention of UN personnel and their families; take measures to prevent, combat and eliminate terrorism; and refrain from adopting any unilateral coercive measure not in accordance with international law and the UN Charter which created obstacles to trade relations among States.

The Commission recommended that whenever armed civil defence forces were created to protect the civilian population, Governments should establish minimum legal requirements for them, including voluntary recruitment, accountability and assurance that any human rights violations by such forces be subject to the jurisdiction of civilian courts.

The Commission called for the appointment of a Special Rapporteur to, among other duties, inquire into allegations related to the independence and impartiality of the judiciary and make recommendations for progress in protecting and enhancing their independence.

Special Rapporteurs were asked to continue work on: human rights and states of emergency; human rights and mass exoduses; the use of mercenaries as a means of impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination; promoting the realization of adequate housing; the human rights dimensions of population transfer; and implementation of the 1981 Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion and Belief.

Thematic Special Rapporteurs and working groups were asked to include in their reports gender-disaggregated data and to address the characteristics and practice of human rights violations directed against women. The final report of an independent expert regarding the right to property was commended, particularly the information on the failure in many parts of the world to protect the rights of women to own property.

The Secretary-General's Special Representative on internally displaced persons was called upon to propose ways of setting up a more coherent system of data collection on the situation of such persons.

Human rights bodies, instruments

The Commission stressed the importance of avoiding the erosion of human rights by derogation and urged States Parties to the International Covenants on Human Rights to fulfil their reporting obligations under the Covenants. It urged States to develop programmes and books on human rights for teaching in primary and secondary education, and called for recommendations to improve the efficiency and coordination of various mechanisms for supervision, monitoring and investigation of implementation of treaty obligations entered into by States regarding human rights.

Governments were urged to refrain from all acts of intimidation or reprisal against persons who cooperated with UN human rights bodies; who availed themselves of procedures

established under UN auspices; who submitted communications under procedures established by human rights instruments; and who were relatives of victims of human rights violations.

The Commission decided to establish a focal point within the UN Centre for Human Rights to be responsible for reviewing activities carried out during the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (1993-2003). The Centre was asked to finalize its comprehensive review of the programme of information and publications in human rights, including elaboration of a new information strategy.

It asked the Secretary-General to give high priority to the establishment of a computerized database to improve the efficiency of treaty bodies and to encourage successor States to confirm their obligations under the international human rights treaties to which their predecessors were a party.

Meetings planned

The Commission endorsed the holding of an Asia-Pacific regional meeting for the promotion and protection of human rights in 1994 in Seoul, Republic of Korea, and requested the convening of a third international workshop on national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights during 1995 in either Latin America or Asia.

At the conclusion of the wide-ranging and substantial body of action taken during the session, Ibrahima Fall, Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights, stated on 11 March that there was "no doubt that if their efforts had not been enough to eradicate, with a magic wand, the grave and massive human rights violations throughout the world, they had more modestly, but also more surely, contributed to the creation, maintenance and revival of the hope of many persons and groups which counted on the United Nations for the preservation of their basic freedoms and inalienable rights". ■

High Commissioner for Human Rights:

The 'moral voice of humanity'

Less than two months after its historic decision to create a High Commissioner for Human Rights, the General Assembly on 14 February unanimously approved the appointment of José Ayala Lasso to the new post.

A former Foreign Minister of Ecuador, he was his country's Permanent Representative to the UN just prior to his appointment.

Mr. Ayala Lasso shared his views on the new job with the *UN Chronicle* just before leaving for Geneva, where he will be based.

UN Photo 185014/J. Isaac

Mr. Ayala Lasso

We know that your job is to "promote and protect the effective enjoyment by all of all civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights". Tell us how this important mandate will translate into day-to-day responsibilities.

That is a very important question, because you are addressing the most difficult task—defining what I should be able to do. The resolution is vague, giving the High Commisssioner the widest possible capability in the field of human rights. What we have created is a new instrument, a new voice to coordinate and update already existing UN systems and develop new action to achieve effective progress in promoting human rights. So my work will be very broad. At the same time, the mandate of the High Commissioner is limited within the framework of the Charter, the instruments of human rights, the political authority of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, the Commission on Human Rights, and the Secretary-General, whose vision I will be following.

How do you plan to streamline and better organize UN activities in human rights?

The Secretary-General considers coordination one of the most important tasks of the High Commissioner. This is necessary for avoiding duplication. We need to establish procedures that will be conducive to our aims and develop better reaction capabilities, for instance, in the provision of technical assistance and advisory services through the Centre for Human Rights. All of these tasks will be part of the plan of work as soon as I assume office.

Personally, I think that one of my most important aims will be to strengthen the moral and political authority of the High Commissioner. I have frequently referred to the fact that the post was created through consensus in the General Assembly. This unanimity of world voices gives the High Commissioner a very strong moral and political authority. I plan to develop this authority in such a way as to allow the High Commissioner to become more and more influential, more and more respected, more and more accepted as an impartial, objective person who simply wants to promote what everybody wants—human rights.

How do you plan to work with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to promote human rights? How do you hope to expand their role?

NGOs have historically accomplished a very important task in the area of human rights, and I pay tribute to the work they have done. Their work and the High Commissioner's work are complementary. I plan to establish a sort of organic link between the NGOs and the High Commissioner, because we are fighting for the same cause. At the same time, I will be entirely at the disposal of the NGOs to help them, if they consider it necessary or useful.

Throughout the world, we have been witnessing an alarming increase in religious, cultural and ethnic intolerance. Hoping to curb such attitudes, the General Assembly declared a Decade to promote tolerance. Why do you think that intolerance has been increasing, and how do you hope to play a role in promoting a more understanding, tolerant world society?

You have mentioned one of the most important causes of human rights violations—intolerance. We need to bring up our children in a culture of tolerance. I think that we should engage in a human rights education programme, which would include tolerance as the normal way of thinking, acting and living.

Benito Juárez—a nineteenth century Mexican statesman—described peace as respect for the rights of others. That means tolerance, that means the capacity to learn from others and the capacity of giving others the benefits of the best we have in ourselves and not thrusting upon them what we think.

I think intolerance is a phenomenon that has very complex roots. After the collapse of the cold war, there was hope that we could live more harmoniously with each other. But, unfortunately, intolerant tendencies of nationalism emerged and created a lot of havoc. Now we have many, many problems. To control these, we should engage in a programme to teach people to accept the presence of others and respect their rights.

What type of human rights education programme do you envision?

I think that the Centre for Human Rights and some other UN institutions—for instance the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization—have been doing the work of educating people about human rights. There is also the Decade of Education for Human Rights, which I strongly support. Ten years of education for human rights will help us face the new century with a different view.

Education is necessary, first to enable each human being to know his or her human rights; only then will each person be able to defend or protect human rights. The second point, education for human rights means respect for the rights of others. Education in that sense must be a permanent activity of the UN, Governments, and regional governmental or non-governmental organizations. And the High Commissioner should promote that kind of activity throughout the world.

How will your role differ from that of the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights?

I think the resolution mentions clearly that all of the institutions involved in human rights at the United Nations will be, in a way, dependent on the High Commissioner. He will be able to oversee the whole activity of the UN in this matter, to organize better, to coordinate and promote the total activity at the same rhythm and toward the same aim, avoiding duplications.

The High Commissioner represents the moral voice of humanity. It has been created because humanity is more aware that respecting human rights must be a priority.

The General Assembly has asked you to take into account and respect each State's cultural and religious traditions. How will you do that and yet apply equal norms to all? How will you handle instances when a State's customs do not fall in line with basic human rights?

I think that human rights, as mentioned in the resolution, are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated. This means that there are certain standards for human rights which are in everyone's conscience. At the same time, the resolution says that while the significance of national and regional particularities should be borne in mind, it is the duty of the State—regardless of its social, political and economic systems—to promote and protect human rights. I will have the difficult problem of how to deal with these particularities. But I think my answer will be that I will try as much as possible to raise the standards of human rights—of their universality. And to obtain that, I will bear in mind these particularities, looking through them to find out the best adapted ways and means to obtain the aim I am pursuing—to raise the level of standards permanently. ■

UN Photo 171093/I. Isaac

"Education is necessary first to enable each human being to know his or her human rights."

Confronting a Calamity

To combat the world's most menacing epidemic, the UN mounts a new joint programme.

With a quick smile and flashing eyes, Wingston Zulu of Zambia stood at the threshold of his adult life. It was 1990 and the promise of a scholarship to study abroad had thrown the door to adventure wide open for him.

"We were supposed to go to the Soviet Union in about five days time, so they asked us to go for a quick medical check-up", he told a World Health Organization (WHO) team in Lusaka. That routine examination, however, brought devastating news: Wingston had contracted the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), which ultimately leads to the crippling acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS).

Unheard of before the late 1970s, the medical condition known as HIV/AIDS now dominates public health concerns in many countries—and can be expected to for years to come.

UNICEF Photo/4912/Schytte

Children in Africa learn how to prevent the spread of AIDS.

Transmitted primarily through sexual intercourse, HIV erodes a body's defenses, eventually causing a series of AIDS-related illnesses. There is no cure yet for AIDS, and an effective vaccine is unlikely to be ready by the end of this century.

"I couldn't believe it", said 26-year-old Wingston, recalling the day he and his colleagues received their medical test results. "There were seven of us who went and five were found HIV positive."

Those numbers may sound incredible, but they're fast becoming a reality in some parts of the world, especially in Africa. WHO estimates that currently one in four Zambian adults are HIV positive. In some African cities, as many as one third of all people aged 15 to 49 are infected with HIV. Hardest hit are the youth, since 60 per cent of new infections in Africa are among 15 to 24 year olds.

No region untouched

While sub-Saharan Africa and parts of East and South-east Asia present the greatest challenge in the fight against AIDS, no region has been left untouched. "Countries spared the consequences of this epidemic are getting fewer and fewer", Dr. Michael Merson, Executive Director of the WHO Global Programme on AIDS, told the WHO Executive Board on 24 January.

To improve efforts to fight the spread of AIDS now and to prepare for increasing numbers of HIV cases, UN agencies agreed to cooperate in a new joint and co-sponsored United Nations programme on HIV/AIDS.

The effort will bring together the work of six UN organizations—WHO, the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), the UN Development Programme (UNDP), the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), and the World Bank.

A WHO official described the new programme as a "UN family-wide response" to AIDS, which will combine existing efforts in the form of an overall management structure. WHO will administer the joint programme, which will incorporate ongoing activities. The expectation is that the joint programme will strengthen the worldwide fight against AIDS at a country level.

The task these agencies face is considerable. The cumulative total of HIV infections worldwide by late 1993 topped 14 million adults and 1 million children, many of them in developed countries *(see map on page 51)*. WHO projects that by the year 2000, a global total of at least 30 million to 40 million men, women and children will have been infected with HIV since the start of the pandemic. This is a calamity whose dimensions are scarcely comprehensible.

> "In Africa, south of the Sahara, some communities have been hit so hard that there are funerals every day or two."

Focusing on numbers alone, though, may only blur the real image of AIDS—that of a child left motherless, a woman who loses her job due to discrimination, a young man who faces not scholastic honour but rejection by his community.

"AIDS isn't just a statistical chart with breakdowns of Africans, Blacks, Hispanics, Haitians, babies and white homosexuals. . . . AIDS violently strikes our bodies and the bodies are of individuals—people living like me", said Ilka Tanya Payán, an HIV-positive actress and member of the New York City Commission on Human Rights, at the World AIDS Day observance at UN Headquarters in New York on 1 December 1993.

A woman from New York who became HIV-infected at age 16 described her emotional stress. "It can be very lonely to be a 23-year-old woman who has friends who are dating and getting married. There are times when you can't sleep or you don't want to get up in the morning", she said quietly.

With a dark curtain of hair pulled back to reveal a lovely, clear face, the young woman looked perfectly healthy. HIV is a "stealth intruder". It may not take visible form for as many as 10 years, leaving both the virus carrier and any of his or her sexual partners unaware of its deadly presence. "The person sitting next to you could be HIV positive", said a man named Simon at an AIDS discussion in Zambia.

Beyond the immediate impact HIV has on infected individuals, those who survive—often children and the elderly—must struggle to cope with the loss of loved ones and caretakers. The majority of infected people in developing countries are men and women aged 15 to 45, many with dependants. The World Bank estimates that in high-fertility countries in eastern Africa, for every mother dying of AIDS, three children are orphaned.

The disease also threatens to undermine development efforts, depleting workforces and striking many sectors of the economy. Meanwhile, as AIDS cases increase, the demand for health and social services intensifies, creating the possibility of a withdrawal of investments in productive sectors.

Providing global leadership

In response to this escalating crisis, the Executive Boards of WHO, UNICEF and UNESCO approved a new joint and co-sponsored UN programme on HIV/AIDS, which will soon go to the Executive Boards of UNDP and

FIGHT AIDS WORLDWIDE

What is AIDS?

The acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) is caused by a virus known as HIV, or the human immunodeficiency virus. When HIV enters a cell, it begins to attack and destroy certain white blood cells—called T4 lymphocytes and monocytes/macrophages—essential for the body's immune system.

As these cells die, the body's defenses weaken and the infected person may begin to experience increasingly serious AIDS-related medical conditions, including persistent diarrhoea, fatigue, severe weight loss and skin lesions. The so-called "opportunistic" illnesses, rare to people with healthy immune systems, may take hold, such as *Kaposi sarcoma*—a painful skin cancer—or *Pneumocystis carinii* pneumonia.

In some cases, HIV may enter a cell and remain inactive for years. In fact, HIV-infected people may not enter the late and fatal stage of the disease—AIDS—for more than 10 years. However, 50 per cent or more of HIV-infected people are likely to develop AIDS within 10 years after first becoming infected, according to WHO. Because there is currently no cure, AIDS-related illnesses eventually overpower the body's ability to fight back.

How do people get AIDS?

HIV spreads primarily through sexual intercourse, making it basically a sexually transmitted disease. There are two other less common ways for HIV to enter the body: by contact with contaminated blood or from an infected mother to her child before, during or shortly after birth. Sharing food, glasses or eating utensils, hugging an infected adult, playing with an HIV-positive baby—none of these poses any risk of HIV transmission.

Where did AIDS come from?

Although its exact origins are unknown, initial reports of AIDS occurred in the late 1970s or early 1980s. In the Americas, Australasia and Western Europe, it was first observed in homosexual or bisexual men and injecting drug-users living in urban areas. In parts of the Caribbean and East and Central Africa, it was more often observed during the same period among men and women with multiple sex partners, WHO has reported. The virus spread to Asia and the Pacific (excluding Australia and New Zealand), Eastern Europe, North Africa and the Middle East in the early to mid-1980s. Today, it has affected all continents, travelling from urban to rural areas.

UNFPA. Described as an historic action, the joint programme will provide global leadership and ensure collaboration in efforts to combat the worldwide plague.

"As the pandemic has spread to all parts of the world and the social, economic and political consequences have become ever more evident, numerous United Nations organizations have responded to the increasing need for a truly multisectoral response", Dr. Merson has said.

The co-sponsored programme would promote coordinated fund-raising at global and country levels and better integrate ideas and approaches among UN agencies. For Governments struggling to cope with the growing number of HIV infections and AIDS cases, the programme would provide a more comprehensive UN support and help them coordinate efforts of donor agencies. It would also ensure wider application on a global scale of prevention and control activities, such as education programmes and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs).

The most important objective of the programme would be to "reinforce national capacity to respond to the epidemic", especially through technical advice, according to a WHO report *(EB93/27)*.

A number of problems cited by developing countries and donor Governments led to the programme's formulation. Accepted global policies and strategies were not being carried out effectively in some countries. Governments were receiving conflicting technical advice, and there was confusion about the role of the various organizations involved in the AIDS pandemic. Meanwhile, multisectoral action and financial resources to fight the epidemic were far too limited.

Apart from these difficulties, continuing complacency about and denial of the pandemic, the growing impact of HIV/AIDS on women, the overwhelming burden of the disease on health care systems, and discrimination of infected people were among concerns demanding more coordinated action, WHO reported.

UN vigorously involved

The new co-sponsored programme by no means represents a first attempt to confront the AIDS crisis. Through the work of its various organizations, the UN has been vigorously involved in combatting the pandemic for nearly a decade.

In late 1983, WHO held the first international meeting on AIDS in Geneva. Due to the dramatic evolution of the pandemic, WHO drew up a Global Strategy for the prevention and control of AIDS and proposed a Special Programme on AIDS to administer that plan. Both were adopted by the World Health Assembly in May 1987.

In October of that year, the UN General Assembly addressed the AIDS pandemic for the first time, adopting resolution 42/8, endorsing the Strategy. In 1988, the WHO Executive Board renamed the Special Programme on AIDS the Global Programme on AIDS (GPA).

The main objectives of the Global Strategy are to: prevent HIV infections; reduce the personal and social impact of HIV infection; and mobilize and unify national and international efforts against AIDS.

Prevention is indisputably the most important objective of the Strategy, the GPA states. Action to prevent the disease includes disseminating information about AIDS, including the promotion of safer sex practices and the use of condoms; providing health and social services, especially to detect and treat other STDs; and promoting a supportive environment.

A "supportive environment" refers not only to an absence of discrimination, but also to an absence of poverty. "Poverty makes whole communities vulnerable to AIDS by forcing men to leave their families in search of work, by leaving people hopeless enough to turn to the solace of drugs, and by making prostitution a survival strategy for women and children", WHO states in a progress report on the GPA. "AIDS then completes the vicious circle by making the community even poorer."

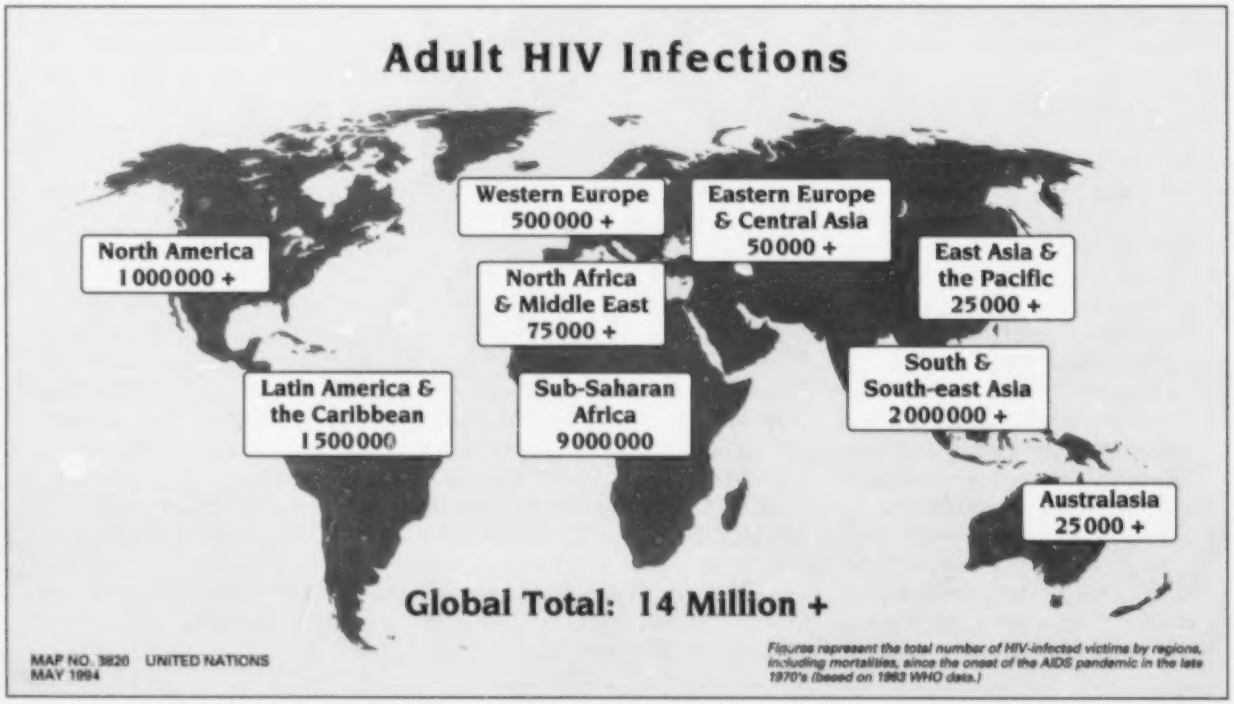
Greater knowledge about the disease led to an update of the Global Strategy in May 1992, placing increased emphasis on: health care for AIDS patients; treatment for STDs; improving women's status to reduce her risk of infection; providing more frank information about AIDS; making plans in anticipation of the socio-economic impact of the pandemic; and overcoming stigmatization and discrimination.

As more HIV-positive individuals develop full-blown AIDS, demand for health-care services is expected to skyrocket, making preparation in that area a primary goal.

"AIDS is pushing us with our back against the wall", said Dr. Sandra Anderson of the GPA's Health Care Support Unit in the area of community care. "We need to use all available resources—families, traditional healers, hospitals."

Dr. Anderson, originally from Michigan, United States, helped produce the AIDS Home Care Handbook in 1993. Families, she claims, are indispensable in caring for AIDS patients. "Families can provide warmth and acceptance. But people with AIDS need access to clinics and hospitals, so home and hospital care are complementary, not mutually exclusive", she explained.

Availability of medicine is another area of deep concern for the GPA. "This epidemic is coming at a time when drug supply is not at its highest", said Dr. Anderson. "If a country's drug supply is not functioning well, AIDS puts a tremendous burden on it."



Figures represent the total number of HIV-infected victims by regions, including mortalities, since the onset of the AIDS pandemic in the late 1970's (based on 1993 WHO data.)

Reviewing the progress

While these problems pose a tremendous challenge in the fight against AIDS, it is important to remember how much has been achieved during the past decade. Information from national AIDS programmes, according to WHO, yields an encouraging picture in many areas: people are much better informed about how they can protect themselves and others from HIV transmission; more condoms are being produced and distributed; donated blood is increasingly being screened for HIV; and there are more resources and staff involved in HIV/AIDS prevention.

Because AIDS is not only a health problem but also a social, economic and development issue, numerous organizations within the UN have become involved in the war on AIDS.

While continuing to carry out the work they have already undertaken, under the new joint and co-sponsored UN programme on HIV/AIDS, the six agencies will offer a united force to fight back the advance of this devastating epidemic.

To date, their efforts have included the following:

World Health Organization: The WHO Global Programme on AIDS works with individual countries, helping them with short-term measures for responding to the crisis and then with support for a national AIDS programme capable of taking on long-term prevention, control and care. Today, national AIDS programmes have been established in virtually every country of the world—most of them guided by the Global AIDS Strategy, which was updated in 1992, and with advice from WHO.

GPA's mission is to mobilize an effective, equitable and ethical response to the pandemic. It strives to raise awareness, stimulate solidarity and unify worldwide action. Dedicated to strengthening the capacity of countries and communities to prevent HIV transmission and reduce the suffering of people already affected, it provides technical and policy guidance to governments, other agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). At the same time, it promotes and supports research to develop new technologies, interventions and approaches to AIDS prevention and care.

UN Development Programme: Under the 1988 WHO/UNDP Alliance to Combat HIV/AIDS and the 1992 Memorandum of Understanding for the Implementation of the Alliance, UNDP's particular responsibility is to provide support in tackling the social and economic dimensions of the epidemic and minimizing its impact on human development.

More specifically, its mandate is to: increase awareness of the development implications of the epidemic;

WHO launches tests of AIDS vaccines

Long-term tests of vaccines to prevent AIDS are set to begin in May 1994 in Brazil, Thailand and Uganda, reports the WHO.

The hope is that the vaccines will protect HIV-negative people—those who do not have the virus that leads to AIDS. Developed by manufacturers and universities, the possible vaccines will be tested through the WHO Global Programme on AIDS (GPA) over the course of the next 10 years.

"Our aim is to speed up the evaluation of vaccines in the developing world, because that's where the demand is greatest", Dr. Peter Piot, Director of Research and Intervention Development for GPA, told the *UN Chronicle*.

"High rates of new HIV infections in developing countries mean that smaller sample sizes are needed over a shorter time period to

UN Photo

determine whether a vaccine can prevent infection. Healthy volunteers will be given either the vaccine or a placebo", said Dr. Piot. During such trials, all possible prevention measures will be taken. The vaccine's success will be determined by seeing how many individuals are newly-infected in the vaccinated group, compared with the placebo group.

Other vaccines, still in a development phase, include "therapeutic" or treatment vaccines to slow down the effects of HIV in infected people and "perinatal" vaccines to prevent an HIV-positive pregnant woman from passing the infection to her fetus or infant.

Meanwhile, scientists are making great strides in other areas—such as developing a safe microbicide, capable of inactivating HIV in a woman's vagina. "Women in most societies have a difficult time negotiating safe sex, so we strongly believe that we need a female barrier to HIV," said Dr. Piot, who estimates that such a virucide may be available in a couple of years.

On 26 April, WHO also called for establishing a global network of scientific centres to identify and combat new or re-emerging infectious diseases, particularly AIDS.

strengthen and expand the capacity of communities to respond to the epidemic; promote and assist prevention, care, support and treatment programmes for women; and assist Governments to develop effective multi-sectoral HIV strategies and minimize the devastating consequences of widespread infection.

World Bank: By acting as the largest source of finance for AIDS prevention programmes, the World Bank plays one of the most important roles in AIDS prevention.

Since the first loan for an AIDS-prevention programme was approved in 1986, the World Bank's efforts have expanded rapidly. There are AIDS projects or components of projects in about 40 countries, and several nations now run free-standing projects with World Bank financing. By June 1995, cumulative World Bank lending for AIDS prevention and control is expected to have reached more than $500 million.

UN Population Fund: During 1992, UNFPA supported AIDS prevention and control activities in 84 countries, a marked increase from 41 in 1991.

The range of its activities also increased, with more attention placed on socio-demographic research and programmes aimed at women and young people. Most UNFPA support goes to incorporating AIDS-related information in population, family life, and family planning education and communication programmes; providing counselling on AIDS prevention; distributing condoms under maternal and child health and family planning programmes; and training family planning workers.

UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization: UNESCO's primary aim is to develop educational strategies adapted to different socio-cultural contexts that help young people adopt responsible attitudes and behaviour to avoid HIV infection. These strategies are then provided to decision-makers and educational planners to assist them in developing programmes to prevent AIDS and STDs.

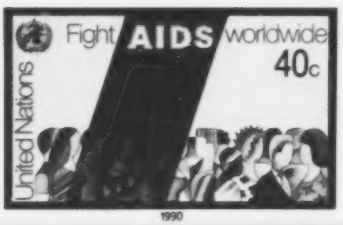
Sex education: A controversial necessity

Hotly debated among educators, parents and other social arbiters, sex education for children and young adults is considered by many a necessity for preventing the spread of AIDS.

"A good AIDS prevention programme has to tackle many barriers—and the number one barrier is the fear that adults have regarding sex education for children and youth", Mariella Baldo of WHO's GPA Prevention Unit, told the *UN Chronicle*. "They think that sex education may encourage people to have sex."

In fact, a 1993 WHO survey, based on 35 studies, found no evidence that sex education in schools leads to earlier or increased sexual activity. Many studies indicated that sex education increased the adoption of safer sexual practices in sexually-active youth; some found that sex education led either to a delay in starting or a decrease in sexual activity.

Such behaviour changes are of paramount importance; to date, at least half of all HIV infections have occurred in young people between 15 and 24 years of age.



Sex education is most effective when provided before a young person becomes sexually active, Ms. Baldo stated. WHO says programmes that promote both postponement of sex and protected sex are more effective than those that promote abstinence alone.

"The most common reaction of young people is to smile and say that they knew it all already", Ms. Baldo said of her meeting with youth around the world. "They're not as naive as adults think. For instance, instead of asking what a condom is, they ask what the best brand is."

UNESCO also develops advocacy material for school-based AIDS education programmes, such as the film called "AIDS, it's time for schools to act!", released in 1993.

UN Children's Fund: UNICEF also supports AIDS education activities—through school curricula, health education and other outlets—to reach women and children at risk. For instance, in Uganda, it launched a school programme that emphasizes the importance of "loving carefully".

UNICEF provides orientation and training for those likely to come into contact with AIDS patients or their relatives, and promotes advocacy efforts to raise awareness and mobilize resources. It has worked tirelessly to expand Primary Health Care (PHC) networks and has placed particular attention on the sterilization of medical equipment. It is also examining ways to care for the growing number of AIDS orphans.

Through the work of these agencies, countless NGOs and Governments around the world, AIDS does not need to be a permanent plague. "True we do not have a vaccine or cure—though scientists are working hard in many countries to find one", said Dr. Merson recently. "But we are not defenseless. Our years of experience have yielded precious knowledge on how to protect people from HIV infection." ■

Acting now to make a difference

With an estimated 5,000 people infected each day with HIV, urgency is a feeling Dr. Michael Merson knows well. The devoted Executive Director of WHO's Global Programme on AIDS (GPA) speaks movingly to groups and individuals around the world about the need to act now to fight the deadly virus that leads to AIDS.

"In Africa, south of the Sahara, some communities have been hit so hard that there are funerals every day or two. Soon this will be happening in parts of Asia and Latin America as well", he said on World AIDS Day—1 December 1993—in New York. "For a family already living at the poverty line or below, the loss of their breadwinner and caretaker is catastrophic for those left behind—the children and the elderly."

Encouraging people to talk frankly about a sexually transmitted disease (STD) that's often shrouded in fear and mystery, dealing with Government and public denial about the gravity of the AIDS epidemic, and confronting insufficient resources to care for victims of the disease—these are daily challenges for Dr. Merson, who has been head of WHO's global efforts to fight AIDS since May 1990. Originally from New York, he joined WHO as a medical officer in 1978 and became Director of the Diarrhoeal Disease Control Programme in 1984, where he served until joining the GPA.

"One of my most vivid personal memories is being surrounded by hundreds of people with AIDS in a clinic in Uganda", he recalled recently. "They were just clamouring for medicines to treat their throat infections, so they could at least swallow their food. Can you think of a more basic necessity of life?"

WHO Photo/T. Farkas

Dr. Michael Merson

Despite the tragic numbers of AIDS-related deaths, this compelling advocate takes heart in the fact that attitudes are changing and Governments are showing greater commitment to combatting the epidemic.

In an interview with the *UN Chronicle*, Dr. Merson shared his reflections on the daunting task ahead in preventing the continued spread of AIDS.

How effective has the GPA been? How has it changed?

If you look at the early stages of the epidemic, most of the initial work was in advocacy and focusing on prevention. That remains a large amount of what we do. The other part of what we do, which I added when I became Director, was the treatment of sexually transmitted diseases. People who have an STD, such as chlamydia or gonorrhea, are at greater risk of getting and transmitting HIV.

I think this Programme has done a great deal to raise awareness. I can't think of any country in the world that is not undertaking some kind of response. There's been a fivefold increase in condom sales in Africa in the past three years. In Thailand, the national budget for AIDS awareness and prevention was less than $100,000 a few years ago; now it is $50 million. In country after country, we're seeing a greater sense of commitment.

Has the annual incidence of HIV infection dropped in any country since WHO's Global AIDS Strategy was introduced in 1987?

There are some indications of stabilization in Central and Eastern Africa. That's not to say that it's getting any better, but it's not getting worse. One of our top priorities for the next few years is to help the countries where the disease has not spread as greatly to prevent that from happening.

Tell us about the proposed new joint and co-sponsored UN programme on HIV/AIDS. How will it improve coordination of the UN's fight against AIDS?

We haven't finished working out the details of the programme, but the main objective is to strengthen the UN response to the AIDS epidemic. We want UN agencies to work in the most cohesive and coordinated manner. I also hope such a united effort would be more attractive to donors. It will be administered by WHO, with its headquarters in Geneva, but it would be a truly inter-agency effort.

How strong is the political commitment to national AIDS programmes? Are you still encountering government denial regarding the extent of the AIDS crisis?

Just about every developing country has a programme and every developed country has one. But political commitment is a big issue. It seems to occur late. What we advocate is the sooner the commitment, the better. I worry about this in country after country. I try to convince Heads of State that preventive measures taken later are a lot more costly and less effective than if they were taken earlier.

As for denial, in low-prevalence countries in Asia, Latin America and the Middle East, there's still a tendency to think that "it won't happen

here", that we're protected by our culture. One of our main jobs is to keep raising political awareness.

You've mentioned that there is one universal problem AIDS patients suffer from—the shame and stigma attached to the disease. Have advocacy efforts by WHO reduced this problem? How do you approach changing attitudes?

Fear about AIDS is complex due to the fact that it's fatal and sexually transmitted. People must be made to understand how you get the disease and how you don't. The issue is what I call learning to live with AIDS. You can only obtain strong community-based support for care of AIDS patients if there is no discrimination.

If popular figures in society or politicians hug or are seen with AIDS patients, that helps defend the message. Changing attitudes is mostly done through information and education. You can get messages out to people through health services, ministries of transport, universities, ministries of information, the ministry of labour, youth, agriculture . . . You name the sector and there is probably a way that that sector can get out information and condoms.

What kind of funding does AIDS prevention receive worldwide? How much more is needed to prevent its spread?

One WHO study concluded that $2.5 billion a year would provide enough for every developing country to implement the basic package needed for AIDS prevention. Right now, developing countries receive around 10 per cent of that. And that's not enough. We need more resources from the countries themselves, from donor countries and from the private sector. The private sector has a lot at stake. Here you have a disease that takes people in the prime of their work lives, and also cuts down on the consumer market base. In more and more countries, the private sector is responding—especially with AIDS education programmes in the workplace. The private sector needs to provide care and support for those infected, and information on prevention for those that aren't.

For both biological and social reasons, women are more susceptible to HIV infection. What special efforts is WHO making to prevent the spread of AIDS in women?

First and foremost, we have tried to be loud in our advocacy of the greater risk of women. Secondly, you need to get women involved in control programmes as much as possible. Thirdly, we have to work with Governments to make sure that educational programmes take into account the needs of women and not just men.

WHO Photo 20567

We're interested in developing a vaginal creme that would be virucidal. We're also interested in improving the social and economic status of women in general. Some transmission occurs in commercial sex, and that's largely a result of the lower status of women.

Is WHO involved in vaccine development or other research? Are there hopes that a vaccine might be made available by the year 2000?

We have a very large investment in research—in the areas of intervention, development, social behaviour and virucides. Our budget is about $20 million. We hope one day to have a vaccine, but there's nothing on the immediate horizon. A couple of vaccines might go into field trial this year, but I don't think we can count on having one available in the near future.

What are the major accomplishments to date in the fight against AIDS?

I don't think there's ever been any virus or disease in which so much information has been gained in such a short time. We don't know all we need to know about pathogenesis. We don't know why some people don't get sick as quickly as others, why some people who have sex with infected partners don't get the disease. But we have learned a lot about HIV. We know how it is transmitted, and if we can apply preventive measures, we can really slow down transmission. One can take heart that a lot has been learned.

Your work in the field—visiting AIDS clinics around the world—must have a tremendous personal impact on you. Would you share a few of your field experiences with the UN Chronicle?

When you visit an area where the epidemic is severe, you're struck by its impact on the population. It really overwhelms a society—not just the health sector, but also the family and the community. These people aren't dying overnight, they're sick for a year or two. It involves a tremendous amount of suffering and pain. At times, you feel a sort of desperation that there is no cure. In young adults, it's a very striking phenomenon.

I'm also struck by the impact of this disease on children. When parents are sick, kids stay home and take care of them. And there are so many orphans.

Our role as an organization is to provide leadership to convince people what they need to do and that if they do it, it will make a difference. Our goal is to constantly remind people that no population group is naturally immune, that no culture is devoid of high risk behaviour. What keeps our staff motivated is that when we accomplish that, it really makes a difference. ■

Women and children:

Increasingly targeted by HIV

UNICEF Photo/2741/89/Clement

A young woman sat in a crowded clinic with a small baby, waiting patiently to see a nurse. The child, resting limply in his mother's arms, had not eaten for days and suffered from persistent diarrhoea. While anxious over her baby's health, the mother assumed these were normal, early childhood illnesses.

Instead, she soon discovered that both she and the child were infected by HIV. Many women, especially in Africa, find out that they are HIV-positive in this way, said Dr. Sandra Anderson of the Health Care Support Unit of WHO's Global Programme on AIDS (GPA).

"They may test the baby for HIV without asking for consent, and then they test the mother—and the results come back", explained Dr. Anderson. "Women often find out that they're HIV-positive in a very shocking way."

Increasingly targeted by HIV, women may suffer the consequences of the disease more than most. An HIV-positive woman not only lives under her own death sentence, but has to endure damage to her childbearing and nurturing role. She has a 25 to 40 per cent chance of passing HIV to a child in the womb or at birth.

"I think women with AIDS are much more likely to be rejected than men", added Dr. Anderson. "They often end up being blamed."

WHO estimates that by the year 2000, more than 13 million women will have been infected by HIV, the virus leading to AIDS, and about 4 million will have died. In sub-Saharan Africa, women infected with HIV now outnumber men by six to five. In Malawi, infection rates among women attending prenatal clinics increased from about 3 per cent in 1985 to more than 30 per cent in 1993.

Even in industrialized countries, where transmission is most often through homosexual contact or by injecting drugs, there has been an ominous rise in heterosexual transmission, WHO reports. In the United States, AIDS cases in women were 10 per cent higher in 1993 than in 1992.

"A decade ago, women and children seemed to be on the periphery of the AIDS epidemic", Dr. Michael Merson, Executive Director of the GPA told the Second International Conference on HIV in Children and Mothers (7-10 September 1993, Edinburgh, Scotland). "Today, . . . women and children are at the centre of our concern."

What makes women susceptible to HIV?

There are three main reasons, according to WHO, for the growing rate of HIV infections in women:

- Women are biologically more vulnerable, since they have a larger mucosal surface exposed during sexual intercourse. Also, semen contains far higher concentrations of HIV than vaginal fluid.
- Women are epidemiologically vulnerable. For instance, they tend to marry or have sex with older men, who may have had more sexual partners and are, therefore, more likely to be infected. Also, in the developing world, women frequently require blood transfusions during pregnancy or child birth, exposing them once again to HIV.
- Women are socially vulnerable, since they are often expected to be passive in their sexual relationships. In some cultures, men expect sex from women receiving their financial support. Women also face difficulties protecting themselves from transmission through mutual fidelity or condom use.

"In our society, a woman is educated to be in total submission to her husband", explained Aimée Muadi, who works in Zaire for the Society for Women and AIDS in Africa (SWAA). "She has no right to resist his demands even if he is a doubtful partner. The use of a rubber is the man's initiative, not hers."

The youngest victims

In the mid-1980s, HIV infection started to appear in very young children. Specialists soon determined that infected mothers could pass on the virus during pregnancy, possibly at delivery and, in a very few rare cases, in breastmilk.

In most children, the course of AIDS is swift, because the small body has not yet had time to build its defences. In Cité Soleil, a poor urban neighbour-

hood in Haiti, 13 per cent of children of HIV-infected women die before three months of age, and 23 per cent before their first birthday, UNICEF reports. It is currently assumed that, on average, nearly half of HIV-infected children die before age two, and that by the age of five, 80 per cent will have perished.

Whether or not an HIV-infected woman transmits the virus to one or more of her children, her early death from AIDS will have a profound impact on all of them. Who will care for those she leaves behind?

"It is felt that it is against African culture to foster or adopt a child whose totem you do not know. This is said to bring misfortune to the adopting family", said Elizabeth Matenga, who works for the Family AIDS Counselling Trust in Zimbabwe.

By the year 2000, WHO estimates there will be some 5 million to 10 million AIDS orphans less than 10 years of age worldwide—90 per cent of them in Africa. As the traditional extended family loses its ability to provide for them, many may take to the streets, where they, too, will become prime targets for HIV infection.

The lack of capacity within government services to cope with the problem has been compensated somewhat by the response of non-governmental organizations, such as the AIDS Support Network in Uganda and the SWAA. Mission hospitals are also pioneering home-based care programmes supported by mobile teams.

"If, with patient care, I can keep an AIDS-infected parent alive for six months, I prevent the children being orphaned sooner than necessary", said Ursula Sharpe of St. Joseph's Hospital in Uganda. "Let them see their parents die in dignity. That will help them." ■

Living with AIDS

It is hard to imagine how AIDS destroys the day-to-day lives of millions of people around the world. One of them—Jeff Quinlivan, a 34-year-old New York City dancer—describes his fight to maintain his sense of worth:

"I think of those concepts that people don't understand about me and living life with AIDS. Fatigue, tired, no energy, in pain, dizzy, weak, fragile. That same feeling after you work a 15-hour day, except you have only taken your morning shower.

"Sickness and prolonged sickness is the constant dreaded fear. To adjust ceaselessly ad nauseum to medical wearing and tearing; drugs, needles and side effects; doctor visits and tests; and unending reduction and acceptance of quality of life."

1994 Matthew Lawn and People with AIDS Coalition of New York

"You and I live in an AIDS holocaust, because so many millions are infected and there is no cure in sight", said Jonathan Berg, a 33-year-old New Yorker who has been HIV-positive for approximately 10 years.

Draft for 1995 Summit prepared

UNHCR Photo 22060/L. Taylor

Enhancing social integration, reducing poverty and expanding employment are the three "core issues".

A draft structure for a Declaration and a Programme of Action to be adopted at the 1995 World Summit for Social Development was finalized at the first substantive session of its Preparatory Committee (New York, 31 January-11 February).

The Declaration would describe the world social situation and reasons for convening the Summit, outline goals and "common challenges", and reaffirm international instruments relating to the Summit's three core issues: enhancing social integration; reducing poverty; and expanding employment.

A five-part Programme of Action was to promote "wide-ranging social development strategies" at the local, national, regional and international levels. Its main sections were to deal with the three core issues, as well as parameters for ensuring an "enabling environment" and means of implementation and follow-up.

During the session, many speakers said that social unrest was increasing and that growing disparities had caused increased domestic, political, religious and ethnic violence. The core issues affected all societies, they said, but the impact was greater in developing countries, particularly in Africa. Debt and structural adjustment programmes, as well as the plight of women, required particular attention, many speakers said.

'The new name of peace'

Preparatory Committee Chairman Juan O. Somavia of Chile said that the end of the cold war had given the international community an opportunity to examine social problems outside the restrictions of an ideological framework. Development was the "new name of peace", he said, but development models needed revision. A basic objective of the Summit would be to achieve economic growth within a context of social justice by searching for "people-friendly markets".

A trust fund to facilitate participation of least developed countries in the Summit has been established.

Set to take place in Copenhagen on 11 and 12 March 1995, the Summit aims to put the needs of people at the centre of development and international cooperation. The General Assembly, in resolution 47/92, specified that the Summit should "address in creative ways the interaction between the social function of the State, market responses to social demands, and the imperatives of sustainable development".

Major trends

Delegates reviewed a report providing an overview of the Summit's core issues and policy measures to attain

its objectives. The 48-page text *(A/CONF.166/PC/6)* analyzed trends in social development, elaborated commonalities between the core issues, and offered recommendations for a declaration and a plan of action.

Over the last few decades, it was stated, society had made considerable progress in the fields of health, education and access to basic services, such as drinking water and food. In developing countries, life expectancy rose from 40 years of age in 1950 to 63 years in 1990. In industrialized countries, material progress during the second half of the twentieth century was described as "spectacular".

Nevertheless, the distribution of gains had been "highly unequal", the report stated. "Very great disparities persist between the richest and the poorest nations, and poverty and destitution do not appear to have been reduced."

At the same time, dominant development models were considered inadequate. Population was increasing at a rate of approximately 90 million people per year—most of whom ended up in cities "suffering today from problems of overcrowding, inadequate public services and insecurity".

Core issues

The Summit's three core issues—social integration, poverty and employment—were considered "crucial" for the development of individuals and societies.

An enabling economic environment: "Sustained improvements in the well-being of a society are not possible in the absence of economic growth", the report said. In the past decade, per capita income declined in all regions except in developed market economies and South and East Asia.

Promoting free trade and moving away from protectionism should constitute a "foundation stone of global efforts to revive growth", the report said. Structural reform was also seen as a precondition for sustainable growth.

Low-income countries, particularly in Africa, needed a combination of debt relief and other aid to "revive the processes of development". Governments should promote "diversification, capacity-building and human resource development".

Social integration: Contemporary society had undergone rapid technological, economic and cultural changes, producing both positive and negative repercussions. Living standards had improved in some regions; in others, such change has resulted in a "tendency to marginalize and exclude".

While recognizing constraints to social integration, one aim should be to create "conditions in which all feel that they have a stake in society's peaceful development".

Cooperative diversity

Social integration should not eliminate differences, but rather enable "different groups to live together in productive and cooperative diversity", the report stated. Diversity was a problem only when antagonism between social groups disrupted social functioning. Most historical antagonisms, such as the re-emergence of ethnic conflicts, were due to economic decline.

"Hostile attitudes towards migrants have similar origins", the report stated. Workers in the host country may feel threatened by immigrants willing to accept lower wages.

Prohibiting discrimination was not in itself sufficient. Governments must also enact programmes that involve "active efforts to achieve equality for disadvantaged and marginalized groups", the report said. Education for all should be a central policy goal. Governments should also promote decentralization and non-governmental and other grass-roots organizations.

Poverty: There are more than 1.1 billion poor people in the world, it was reported. The greatest number was in Asia, but poverty was most concentrated in Africa, where half the population fell below the poverty line.

"The best way to reduce poverty is to ensure that people have opportunities for productive and remunerative employment", the report stated. People also needed social institutions—health-care facilities, distribution systems for drugs and other materials, and information centres.

Rural poverty was a serious concern, as was the link between environmental degradation and poverty. "Efforts to protect the environment and efforts to reduce poverty must be integrated", the report stated.

Linked to the "feminization of poverty", the deprivation and suffering of children was a dramatic and pressing issue. Some 35 per cent of children in developing countries still suffered from obvious malnutrition, the report stated.

Employment: An estimated 30 per cent—120 million people—of the world's labour force are unemployed, the report stated. "Many more—estimated at 700 million—are underemployed." In the future, most jobs would be in the private sector, making "well-designed incentive structures" there important. The State should help the private sector create more and better jobs, the report said.

Developing countries should receive a "steady flow of well-targeted development assistance aimed at medium- to long-term development", the report stated. Experience demonstrated the "value of heavy investment in education and training".

Recommendations

Summit participants "may wish to formulate an approach to social problems and to state or recall a number of principles", the report stated. Specifically, five types of international cooperation would help promote social development: raising awareness of the importance of social aspects of development; exchanging information and experience; establishing a policy dialogue in areas of special concern; developing norms, standards, conventions and other international instruments; and identifying areas of cooperation and direct support of developing countries by the international community. ■

Equal pay, urban women problems discussed by Commission

Equal pay for work of equal value, women in urban areas and measures to eradicate violence against women were among the issues dealt with by the Commission on the Status of Women at its thirty-eighth session (7-18 March, New York).

Being also the preparatory body for the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing 1995, the Commission's work focused on preparatory activities, in particular the drafting of the Platform for Action.

In discussing priority themes—equality, development and peace—established for its thirty-seventh through fortieth sessions, the Commission adopted 13 resolutions, many calling on Governments to urgently improve the situations of women around the world.

"The road to Beijing must be paved with vision, commitment and a determination to harness the support of Governments to remove the remaining obstacles to the advancement of women", Gertrude Mongella, UN Assistant Secretary-General and Secretary-General of the Fourth World Conference, told the 45-member Commission on 7 March. It has the task of organizing that conclave, which is set for September 1995.

Preparing for Beijing

In a resolution on Conference preparations, the Commission asked the Secretary-General to advance work on the draft Platform for Action, in time for its next session.

The Commission had reviewed a preliminary text *(E/CN.6/1994/10)* for that Platform, discussed the 10 critical areas of concern and further elaborated strategic objectives and action to be taken. According to the document, the Platform's "mission" was "to accelerate the removal of the remaining obstacles to women's full and equal participation in all spheres of life, including economic and political decision-making, to protect women's human rights throughout the life cycle, and to mainstream women in all areas of sustainable development".

The strategic objectives derived from the critical areas of concern and action to be taken were to: enable women to overcome poverty; ensure women's access to quality education and training for self-reliance at all levels and in all fields and sectors; increase women's full access throughout the life cycle to appropriate, affordable and quality health care and related services; eliminate violence against women; increase the participation of women in conflict resolution and protect women in armed and other kinds of conflict and foreign occupation; promote women's economic self-reliance including access to employment, appropriate working conditions and control over economic resources—land, capital and technol-

UN Photo/Jimmy Bu

On the dais *(from left)*: World Conference Secretary-General Gertrude Mongella, Commission Chairman Patricia Licuanan of the Philippines, and Commission Secretary Kate Starr Newell.

A new take on equal pay

Equal pay for equal work has long been the focus of legislation regulating compensation, but today that emphasis has shifted. Advocates are now promoting the concept "equal pay for work of equal value". What makes this new approach different? According to a text *(E/CN.6/1994/2)* before the thirty-eighth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, under the old system, "it would be illegal to pay female engineers less than male engineers, but quite legal to pay female nurses less than male truck drivers". By using a "comparable worth" approach, however, substantially different jobs can be compared in terms of four criteria—skill, effort, responsibility and working conditions—established by the International Labour Organisation.

ogy: strengthen factors that promote the full and equal participation of women in power structures and decision-making at all levels and all areas; integrate gender-equality dimensions into policy and programme planning and implementation at all levels and in all areas; apply and enforce international norms and standards to promote and safeguard the full and equal enjoyment by women of all human rights; enhance the role of the traditional and modern communication media effectively to promote awareness of equality between women and men; and promote action to develop the mutual responsibility of women and men to achieve equality.

Advancing women's status

In a text on women and development, sponsored by Algeria on behalf of the "Group of 77" and China, the Commission recommended that Governments create ways to ensure women's participation in political, economic and social planning processes. Governments and other institutions were called on to promote measures to stimulate the economies of developing countries and to integrate women in the development process. Gender-oriented research in development also was recommended.

As for equal pay issues, the Commission recognized the need to eliminate income inequalities and gender-based discriminatory working conditions. Employers, employees and their respective organizations should implement the principle of equal pay for equal work and work of equal value.

In other texts, population and development policies that enhance social and economic equality were urged, and Governments were called on to adopt and enforce laws eliminating infanticide, preferential treatment of boys to the detriment of girls' education, forced marriages, and child labour and trafficking.

World Bank Photo/Yosef Hadar

The Commission also urged Governments to ban female genital mutilation and to create awareness among concerned populations of the urgent need to eliminate those practices.

Advancing the status of women in the UN Secretariat and meeting targets for promoting women to decision-making positions were also urged.

Eliminating violence

In other action, violence against women migrant workers was condemned, and States were urged to ensure health and social services for those workers. All States were called on to endorse and implement the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, as well as the 1979 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

The Commission also strongly condemned the practice of rape and abuse of women and children in the former Yugoslavia, and encouraged the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of War Crimes to give priority to cases of rape in areas of armed conflict.

Rape and abuse of women was a deliberate weapon of war aimed at fulfilling the policy of ethnic cleansing carried out by Serbian forces in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Commission stated, demanding an immediate halt to the "outrageous acts", which it said were in "gross violation of international humanitarian law".

Also, the Commission asked Israel to facilitate the return of all refugees and displaced Palestinian women to their homes and properties in the occupied Palestinian territory. It urged all Governments and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to provide financial assistance to Palestinian women for the creation of projects responding to their needs.

On the integration of women in the Middle East peace process, the Commission asked all Governments and NGOs to include women in the peace process as facilitators and mediators to ensure their political development, and to include them in designing and implementing policies and programmes.

The international community also was urged to provide financial, material and human resources to South African women towards establishing special programmes and projects for their integration. ■

Recommendation on marriage approved

A General Recommendation on equality in marriage and family relations was adopted by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women at its thirteenth session (17 January-4 February, New York).

The 23-member Committee, which monitors implementation of the 1979 Convention, also asked that women's dependence on natural resources be recognized, as well as their contributions to unpaid labour, domestic work and activity in the informal sector.

Renewable energy sources discussed

A call for cleaner energy and increased use of renewable sources of energy, such as solar and wind power, was heard at the first meeting of a restructured UN body designed to discuss ways to make energy use compatible with sustainable development.

At its first session (New York, 7-18 February), the Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development recommended specific policies and invited Member States to implement the Committee's options for developing a "new energy path".

In opening remarks, Nitin Desai, Under-Secretary-General of the Department of Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, said that the promise of new and renewable sources of energy had not yet been realized. He called on the Committee to give expert advice on what issues should receive priority consideration.

The question of energy for development was as important as that of new and renewable sources of energy, he said, while it was also important to manage the impact of energy utilization on the environment.

In a draft resolution, the Committee recommended "four domains" for action by Member States: more efficient use of energy and energy-intensive material; increased use of renewable sources of energy; more efficient production and use of fossil fuels; and fuel substitution from high-carbon to low-carbon-based fuels.

It also called for integrated national action programmes for the development of energy systems, and for the removal of subsidies for conventional sources of energy or establishing support for new environmentally sound technologies. Ways to use often-wasted energy, such as waste heat from industrial processes, were recommended.

The Committee urged the Economic and Social Council to support "centres of excellence" to provide training, technology support and resource data appropriate to regional needs. It wanted an assessment of clean energy sources—hydropower, wind, solar and geothermal energy—and substitutes for the unsustainable use of fuelwood.

It also recommended improving efficiency in fossil fuel conversion and of cleaner coal technologies, the expanded use of natural gas, the stimulation of the use of methanol and hydrogen from natural gas and biomass, and the development of an institutional framework for international cooperation in major energy sectors.

The UN was requested to organize and carry out an "urgent international effort" to bring energy and electricity to populations in interested countries which had no access thereto.

The Committee—comprised of 24 Government-nominated experts elected by the Economic and Social Council—had retained the mandate of the former Committee on the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy. In addition, it assumed the mandate of the Committee on Natural Resources concerning energy. It will also consider energy-related sections of "Agenda 21".

The Committee recommended that it hold a special ten-day session in February/March 1995 to provide advice on energy for rural development to the Commission of Sustainable Development. ■

UN Photo/Nagata

Hydroelectric power in the Philippines.

UN Photo/Ray Witlin

Dung cake fuel in India.

Capturing sun-rays, reaping the wind

Despite the environmental appeal and economic feasibility of using renewable energy sources, such as solar and wind power, technologies in that area have "not yet found widespread use in either developed or developing countries", the Secretary-General reported on 6 January.

In a paper *(E/C.13/1994/3)* on developments in the field of new and renewable sources of energy, reviewed by the new UN body created to deal with that subject, it was stated that the share of new and renewable energy in total energy consumption in 1990 was 17.7 per cent. That share dropped to 1.6 per cent when only solar, wind and geothermal energy, as well as modern biomass utilization, were included (excluding large-scale hydropower and such traditional uses of biomass as the burning of fuelwood and charcoal).

The drop in oil prices during the middle and late 1980s led to a decline in investment in renewable energy sources, the report stated, but interest in such alternatives has been rekindled with a growing concern over the state of the environment, particularly the threat of global warming due to the carbon dioxide mankind pumps into the atmosphere by burning fossil fuels and forests.

Estimates on the future growth of new and renewable energy sources vary, the Secretary-General said. The UN Solar Energy Group on Environment and Development estimated that such sources could make up for a 33 to 50 per cent share of the world's total energy consumption by the year 2020. The World Energy Council put that share at just 21.3 per cent under current policies, and 29.6 per cent under an "ecologically driven scenario".

To promote new and renewable energy sources, Governments could initiate: surveys to establish the potential of new and renewable energy sources in both rural and urban areas; market surveys to gather comprehensive information on their costs and benefits, including environmental effects; and, where appropriate, apply differentiated corporate taxation that would "reward ecological responsibility while establishing a level playing field for all energy sources".

Also discussed was progress in implementing the Nairobi Programme of Action, adopted at the UN Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy, held in Kenya in 1981.

It was noted that advances were achieved in large-scale applications of technologies, such as hydropower and geothermal energy, and that solar energy technologies and wind electric farms had reached maturity. Still, the overall impact of such renewable energy sources on the global availability of energy "remained insignificant", the report stated.

The Nairobi Programme identified five broad policy areas for concentrated action: energy assessment and planning; research, development and demonstration; transfer, adaptation and application of mature technologies; information flows; and education and training. ■

UN Photo 156791/M. Grant

Solar cookers in Haiti.

UN Photo 156829/Andras O. Dee

Quezon City windmill.

Natural Resources Committee calls for global water plan

UNHCR Photo 22062/L. Taylor

World Water Day was observed on 22 March. Its theme: "Water for All", a slogan aiming to raise awareness about the need to conserve water and protect fresh water supply. *Above*, at a Bangladesh riverside.

A worldwide plan to avert an impending global water crisis was called for by the Committee on Natural Resources at its second session (22 February-4 March, New York).

The strategy should define specific areas of priority to diminish significantly by the year 2010 the threat to freshwater resources, the 24-member expert body said in asking the UN Commission on Sustainable Development to undertake that task.

"Water shortages are becoming a common occurrence in industrialized and developing countries alike", stated a report examined by the Committee. "The world may be reaching a water crisis situation of global proportions."

The Committee also asked Governments to establish a dynamic and multisectoral approach to water resources management, including assessing and protecting potential sources of freshwater.

As for mineral resources—another major concern—the Committee wanted the Commission to forge a dialogue between the UN system and the international mining industry to develop new approaches to ensure a sustainable supply of mineral resources.

Workshops on mineral resource assessment projects were recommended. A report was asked on key advances in state-of-the-art technologies to minimize environmental degradation resulting from mining and related processing.

Reports

Among several interesting reports before the Committee was a 26-page document on water resources (*E/C.7/1994/4*), detailing critical concerns for the 1990s and regional trends in water resources management.

Available information suggested that Governments were "subsidizing services to the better-off population at higher levels, rather than to the urban low-income population and rural areas", the report stated.

With the bulk of population increase taking place in urban areas, the availability of safe water in cities "is fast becoming one of the most important factors limiting socio-economic development".

Under pressure from population and economic growth, food production problems "will be exacerbated by a deterioration of water quality and a degradation of irrigation systems to the point where they have to go out of use", the report added.

To find answers, Governments had to consider creating a "dynamic interactive, iterative approach" to water resources management. A "diagnostic assessment" of institutional arrangements and human resources capacity was crucial to formulating a strategy and action plan for the years to come.

While there had been progress in some areas, "very serious problems" persisted, sometimes verging on the "alarming". For example, the report called attention to progress in eradicating some water-borne diseases, notably guinea worm. But the outbreak of cholera in recent years "illustrates the possible magnitude of an impending health crisis", particularly in urban areas.

"More and more rivers, recipients of untreated urban waste discharges, are becoming open sewers, and pollution from the indiscriminate use of agrochemical products is often rampant", the report stated.

To ensure that water resources receive high priority on national and regional agendas, the report urged that more information be disseminated and water resource policy be integrated into planning and economic policies.

"Without a concerted effort to deal with economic growth, poverty and a more equitable distribution of income, developing countries will not be able to cope with issues related to the long-term sustainability of land and water development", the report stated. ■

Desertification convention nears completion

The International Negotiating Committee charged with creating a new UN instrument to combat desertification continued work on a 42-article draft convention at its third (17-28 January, New York) and fourth (21-31 March, Geneva) sessions. The new convention is scheduled for adoption at the Committee's June meeting in Paris.

With the preliminary official name of "International Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa", the treaty was called for by the UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), which met in Rio de Janeiro in June 1992.

At that "Earth Summit", participants adopted "Agenda 21"—a comprehensive programme of action aimed at promoting the principles of sustainable development. The action programme highlighted ways to combat desertification through alternative livelihood systems.

In support of "Agenda 21", the General Assembly, in resolution 47/188, established the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee that drew up the new draft convention.

"I hope that we can develop through the convention a truly global partnership to bring desertification under control, to move to sustainable management of dryland areas and to reclaim arid lands", James Gustave Speth, Administrator of the UN Development Programme (UNDP), told the Committee on 17 January.

With population increasing at a rate of about 40,000 people per day, world food output must triple over the next half century, Mr. Speth pointed out. "From this perspective, the goal of achieving sustainable food security in the decades ahead emerges as one of the greatest challenges humanity has ever faced."

According to the draft *(A/AC.241/15/Rev.1)*, the primary aim of the new instrument is to halt the spread of desertification and "mitigate the effects of drought", with the hope of "achieving sustainable development in affected areas". Beyond defining key technical terms like "land degradation", the draft convention identifies national and regional action programmes, technological cooperation, and public awareness campaigns as measures to combat the problem.

Parties to the convention should develop "partnerships among all levels of government, communities, non-governmental organizations and landholders to establish an understanding of the nature and value of land resources in affected areas and to work towards their sustainable use", the draft states.

Affected countries also are urged to "promote awareness and facilitate participation of local populations" and to develop action programmes that include measures to reduce poverty, improve land and water management, and promote food security.

Desertification currently affects more than 900 million people worldwide and a quarter of the world's land area. Committee Chairman Bo Kjellen told a 31 January press briefing in New York. To avert hunger and catastrophes, he said, the situation must be addressed.

At its fourth session, the Committee worked on a draft annex to the convention focusing on Africa. Progress had been made toward producing a consensus draft document, but financial arrangements and obligations under the text remained a sticking point. Chairman Kjellen said that the June negotiating session would need to focus on three areas: visible change in combating desertification problems; emphasis on local efforts; and sustained action in facing the difficulties posed by desertification. ■

Looking out for Mother Nature

Reviewing the accomplishments of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction and charting a programme of action for the future are among the objectives of the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction, set to meet from 23 to 27 May in Yokohama, Japan.

Marking the halfway point in the International Decade, which began 1 January 1990, the Conference aims to promote awareness of the importance of disaster reduction policies and facilitate exchange of information on the Decade's programmes and policies.

Droughts, floods, tornadoes, earthquakes, bush fires, volcanic eruptions and other natural disasters caused death and destruction in both developing and developed countries, said Olavi Elo of the Secretariat for the International Decade at a Preparatory Committee meeting (14-18 March, Geneva). And most disaster-related deaths occur in developing countries due, in part, to lack of preparedness, he added.

The Preparatory Committee adopted the outline of a draft final document on the Conference's principles, strategy and plan of action. The plan of action calls for all countries to strengthen or establish national Decade committees and to encourage community involvement at all stages of disaster management programmes.

As part of a strategy for the year 2000, the Committee recommended a global culture of prevention, education and training in disaster prevention, preparedness and mitigation.

Small island nations face big issues at Barbados Conference

Once known for their untouched story-book charm, small islands today face deforestation, soil erosion, sea-level rise and other problems that have left them grappling for happy endings.

To tackle these issues and formulate strategies promoting environmentally-friendly development, delegates from around the world are to meet at the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States from 25 April to 6 May in Bridgetown, Barbados.

The Conference is another offspring of the UN Conference on Environment and Development, held in June 1992 in Rio de Janeiro. At that "Earth Summit", small islands were designated as a vulnerable group, warranting special international attention. Paragraph 17 of "Agenda 21"—the comprehensive action plan adopted in Rio to promote sustainable development—calls on small island States to develop and strengthen inter-island regional and interregional cooperation and information exchange.

UN Photo 57491/SJ/vmb

Key areas

The Barbados Conference has the task of recommending action in a number of key areas: climate change and sea-level rise; human resource development; waste management; coastal and marine resources; natural disasters; freshwater resources; energy; tourism development; biodiversity; transport and communication; and land use.

Due to scarce land resources, increasing development has placed heavy demands on island countries. Deforestation and erosion are widespread, and growing population pressures have depleted freshwater supplies. Valuable species inhabiting small islands and their seas are endangered. Education, training and other human resources development efforts are needed to ensure effective use of limited resources.

Small islands are also extremely vulnerable to natural disasters, making preparedness essential *(see page 65)*. Tropical storms, for instance, have wiped out entire crops; recovering from such disasters can retard development by years.

External forces threaten small islands too. Sea-level rise, resulting from global warming caused mostly by emissions of greenhouse gases in industrialized countries, poses a serious threat. Dependence on imported fossil fuels also has impeded development, making renewable energy resources another concern of the Conference.

Preparatory Committee meets

Based on these concerns, a draft programme of action was discussed by the Preparatory Committee for the Global Conference at its resumed first session (7-11 March, New York). Progress was made, but agreement was not reached on a text on finance and technology.

Speaking on behalf of the "Group of 77" developing countries and China, Algeria called the outcome of the meeting "rather disappointing". Trinidad and Tobago, speaking for the Alliance of Small Island States, also expressed disappointment that little had been accomplished to guarantee financing of activities for the sustainable development of small island developing States.

The Committee considered proposals for a Barbados Declaration and decided on Conference rules and dates for a high-level segment.

Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) were accredited, with some 150 observers expected to attend.

Non-governmental activities

At the Global Conference, a number of parallel events are to be held, including an NGO Forum, featuring lectures and workshops, and a "Village of Hope"—an exposition portraying island themes, such as tourism, energy management, communication and the media, women as innovators, and education.

SUSTECH '94—an exhibit showcasing sustainable technologies applicable to small islands—will focus on joint ventures and technology transfer in areas such as disaster preparedness, pharmaceutical production, pollution control and environmentally-friendly consumer products. ■

Fate of world's fisheries debated

UN Photo 114996/Nagata

Improving the management and conservation of high seas fisheries was the focus of the UN Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks at its second session (14-31 March, New York).

While progress was made toward agreement on general principles for managing those fish stocks, no consensus was achieved on the issue of regulating exclusive economic zones (EEZs) and high seas areas.

Managing fish stocks that migrate or straddle boundaries between the EEZs of coastal States—those 200 nautical miles of water extending from a nation's shores—and the high seas was essential for conserving species like tuna, marlin, swordfish, sailfish and frigate mackerel, said Conference Chairman Satya N. Nandan of Fiji.

Mandated by the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), held in Rio de Janeiro, the Conference also addressed problems identified in "Agenda 21", including unregulated fishing, excessive fleet size and insufficient cooperation between States.

The Conference, which first met from 12 to 30 July 1993, is to meet again in August 1994 to conclude its work on recommendations to improve fisheries cooperation. Delegations have not yet agreed on whether there should be a new multilateral fishing convention or a non-binding set of guidelines.

A new negotiating text showed that substantial common ground had been achieved between States. Chairman Nandan told the press in New York on 31 March. The 28-page document *(A/CONF.164/13/Rev.1)*, laying out general principles for conservation and management of fish stocks through responsible fishing, was revised and consolidated during the session.

Outlining the duties of flag States, port States and States non-parties to regional agreements, the text calls on Governments with fishing interests to ensure the long-term sustainability of straddling and highly migratory fish stocks.

"States must not succumb to short-term interests and pressures and, in the process, sacrifice the longer-term interests of fishing communities", said Mr. Nandan.

Establishing quotas on catches, limiting the number of vessels or fishing days, and placing restrictions on fish size were recommended as conservation measures. Stocks should be maintained or restored at levels capable of producing "maximum sustainable yields", the text stated.

States should also promote the development and use of "selective, environmentally-safe and cost-effective fishing gear and techniques in order to minimize pollution", the document stated.

While broad agreement was expressed regarding the nature and depth of the crisis in fisheries, no agreement was reached on the issue of how to regulate the EEZs and high seas areas. Many coastal States had demanded a legally binding agreement, with binding dispute resolution, limited to the high seas. (The Law of the Sea Convention grants special rights for coastal States in their EEZs, removing those areas from dispute resolution.)

Other States argued that only subregional and regional organizations could devise conservation and management regimes that take into account local circumstances, habitats and stocks.

Guidelines to ensure compatibility between conservation and management mechanisms on the high seas and in adjacent EEZs were essential because, biologically speaking, fish stocks in both zones constituted a single unit, said Chairman Nandan. ■

International cartels expand influence, INCB reports

The global drug menace has penetrated the spheres of international politics and world economics, as the influence of powerful drug cartels continues to rise, the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) has reported.

"Today, countries that are not suffering from the harmful consequences of drug abuse are the exception rather than the rule", the 60-page INCB report for 1993 stated.

The 13-member Board endeavours to limit the cultivation, production, manufacture and use of drugs to amounts required for medical and scientific purposes only, and to prevent illicit drug production and use, in accordance with international drug control conventions. Its annual reports aim to keep Governments aware of potentially dangerous situations and weaknesses in national controls.

In 1993, increased internationalization of and cooperation between drug cartels remained a strong trend. Trafficking organizations were bartering different drugs and using each other's routes and resources to avoid international control efforts and maximize profits, the report stated. Violence had escalated, and traffickers had become more involved in illegal arms sales.

Heroin and cocaine abuse continued, along with a worldwide increase in the use of synthetic stimulants. The report cited substantial seizures of fenetylline tablets in the Middle East, smuggling of amphetimine and pemoline into West Africa, amphetamine abuse in Scandinavia and other parts of Europe, and growing abuse of potent "designer drugs" in Western Europe, North America and Asia.

Education programmes, rehabilitation of drug abusers and community empowerment were urged as measures to reduce demand. INCB also drew attention to corruption in national drug control systems and called on countries to combat money-laundering.

Since reducing drug availability was a major concern, the Board strongly opposed legalizing drug use, the report stated. All States were called on to become parties to international conventions on narcotic drugs: the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, as amended by the 1972 Protocol; the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances; and the 1988 UN Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances.

Americas North American States—Mexico, the United States and Canada— had ratified the three Conventions and were pursuing vigorous anti-drug policies, the report stated.

In the United States, policy had shifted from foreign intervention to domestic treatment and law enforcement programmes aimed at reducing illicit demand. In Canada, cannabis continued to be the most widely used drug, the report stated. Mexico reduced illicit poppy cultivation to the lowest level in 10 years, according to the report.

Drug traffickers continued to capitalize on the strategic position of the Caribbean subregion to transship considerable quantities of cannabis and cocaine to North America and, to some extent, to Europe, INCB reported.

Trafficking in cocaine posed the greatest drug-related problem in the entire region. Both weak control measures and legal loopholes in financial and banking laws made the region vulnerable to increased money-laundering activity.

Colombia and Peru experienced an upswing in illicit poppy cultivation, probably due to its higher profitability as compared to coca leaves. Peru remained the largest producer of coca leaves in the world, followed by Bolivia.

Africa With 15 countries not parties to any international drug control treaty, Africa remained a weak link in international control of narcotic drugs, the report stated. Supplied mainly by local cultivation, cannabis was the most abused drug in Africa and its cultivation was increasing throughout the region.

Asia South-east Asia was a major producer of illicit opium. Illicit heroin laboratories continued operation in the "Golden Triangle", producing supplies bound for Europe and North America.

While South Asia was updating national narcotics legislation and strengthening drug control administration, abuse and trafficking continued, the report stated.

The Board welcomed the initiatives of Iran, Pakistan and Turkey to strengthen cooperation within the region. Since the region was still a major source of illicit production and traffic in cannabis, opium, morphine and heroin, this cooperation was considered potentially significant.

Europe The abolition of border controls within the European Union, the opening of borders between East and West Europe, and the ongoing war in the former Yugoslavia posed major challenges to drug control and law enforcement authorities, the report stated. In the former Soviet Union, international trade by road, rail and air was growing, with "virtually no control mechanisms in place".

Oceania Although Oceania was not a major focus of drug activity, the Pacific Islands were being used increasingly as transit points by drug traffickers. ■

Regions prepare for 1995 Congress

Organized crime, "eco-crime", and crime prevention strategies were among topics discussed at five regional preparatory meetings for the Ninth UN Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders in 1995.

Crime is undermining the "foundation of trust upon which government is based, by eroding its authority and legitimacy", stated Eduardo Vetere, Chief of the UN Crime and Criminal Justice Branch of the UN Office at Vienna, at the African regional meeting on 17 February.

"We put alarms in our cars, place bars on our windows, trying to make our homes secure as prisons." It was time, he said, to promote a "culture of legality and tolerance instead of a culture of lawlessness and violence".

To help shape international strategies to combat and prevent crime, the UN has convened Congresses on crime prevention every five years since 1955. The Eighth Congress was held in 1990 in Havana; the Ninth will take place in early 1995, with Tunisia as a possible venue.

Two global conferences—on transnational crime (Naples) and on laundering and control of the proceeds of crime (Courmayeur)—are set for later this year in Italy.

Asia and the Pacific

Participants in the Asia and Pacific regional meeting (Bangkok, 17-21 January) urged States to strengthen their cooperation with regard to extraditing criminals. States also should ensure the independence of their judiciary and upgrade the skills of criminal justice personnel. Organized crime, including increased smuggling of firearms, directly threatened national and regional security and stability, many participants stated.

Africa

The UN should emphasize traditional justice mechanisms such as mediation and organize a UN crime prevention day or week to highlight global crime problems—those were among the decisions taken at the African meeting (Kampala, Uganda, 14-18 February).

The 1995 Crime Congress also should identify effective measures to prevent corruption of public officials and strengthen international cooperation to combat organized and transnational crime, it was decided.

> "We put alarms in our cars, place bars on our windows, trying to make our homes secure as prisons"

African nations were asked to develop a multilateral convention on mutual assistance in criminal matters, including obtaining evidence from witnesses to crimes in another country, refraining from registering imported used vehicles without prior clearance from the country of origin, and creating joint structures for combating organized crime.

Europe

New forms of national and transnational crimes, including computer-related crimes, organized illicit migration and illicit traffic in human body parts, were suggested as possible topics for the 1995 Crime Congress by participants in the European meeting (Vienna, 28 February-4 March).

Delegates from more than 30 countries urged exchange of key information on organized crime and promoted quick and flexible reactions through concerted police countermeasures.

Workshops were recommended on improved ways to exchange evidence on environmental crime and on extradition requests.

Latin America and the Caribbean

Exploring ways to prosecute transboundary criminal offences against the environment was suggested as a crucial issue for the 1995 Congress, in a meeting by Latin American and Caribbean nations (San José, Costa Rica, 7-11 March).

A UN international week for crime prevention was suggested to promote awareness of the global problem of crime. International cooperation was needed to promote information exchange regarding drug trafficking, corruption, environmental crime and the treatment of organized crime, participants agreed.

West Asia

The Ninth Crime Congress should strengthen operational activities in developing countries by providing advisory services and training programmes, recommended participants in the West Asia preparatory meeting (Amman, Jordan, 20-24 March).

Member States were urged to strengthen the rule of law and apply UN standards and norms in crime prevention. States were asked to intensify efforts towards crime prevention, regionally and subregionally, and establish integrated policies, programmes and mechanisms, based on principles of Islamic law. ■

Commission gives high priority to monitoring global trends

The effect of population growth on the environment, the role and status of women, and the demographic implications of development policies were among major topics discussed by the Population Commission at its twenty-seventh session (28-31 March, New York).

"The most important lesson we have learned is that population growth and other demographic trends can only be affected by investing in people and by promoting equality between women and men", Dr. Nafis Sadik, Executive Director of the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) and Secretary-General of the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development, told the 26-member body.

In the single text approved during the session, for adoption by the Economic and Social Council, the Commission asked that high priority be given to monitoring world population trends and policies, and to strengthening multilateral technical cooperation to address population concerns.

Further study was asked on: the role of women and population; mortality; levels and changes in population distribution through migration, including refugees, and urbanization; and family formation, reproductive behaviour and family planning.

Among reports reviewed at the session were those on implementation of recommendations made in the 1974 and 1984 UN population conferences, in preparation for the 1994 Conference to be held in Cairo in September.

Population trends

The Commission considered a 58-page report *(E/CN.9/1994/2)* on population trends and policies, social and economic implications of the increasing number of refugees, and the impact of population on the environment.

The world population more than doubled between 1950 and 1992, reaching an estimated 5.5 billion, it was reported. By the end of the twentieth century, that number should rise to 6.2 billion.

In 1992, 10 of the world's largest countries were home to 60 per cent of the people worldwide. They are: China, India, the United States, Indonesia, Brazil, the Russian Federation, Japan, Pakistan, Nigeria and Bangladesh. Urban areas claimed 43 per cent of world population or 2.28 billion people by mid-1990.

Global life expectancy had risen since 1950 by an impressive 18 years, the report stated, from 46.4 years to 64.7 years by 1990. Infant mortality declined in all regions. Total fertility rates declined between 1980-1985 and 1985-1990 from an average of 3.6 to 3.4 children per woman.

The environment

Advocates most often cited socio-economic reasons for reducing population growth rates. They now argue that lower growth rates will help safeguard the environment. In developing countries, "claims on the basic renewable natural resources of arable land, forests and water, fuelled by the rapid population growth of recent decades, have often outstripped the regenerative capacities of those resources", the report said.

Refugees

Between 1985 and 1993, the refugee population worldwide has more than doubled—from 8.5 million to about 19 million (not including the 2.5 million registered in 1991 with the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East). Most refugees found asylum in developing countries, particularly in Asia. A major development during the second half of the 1980s was the rapid increase in the number of persons lodging asylum applications in developed countries.

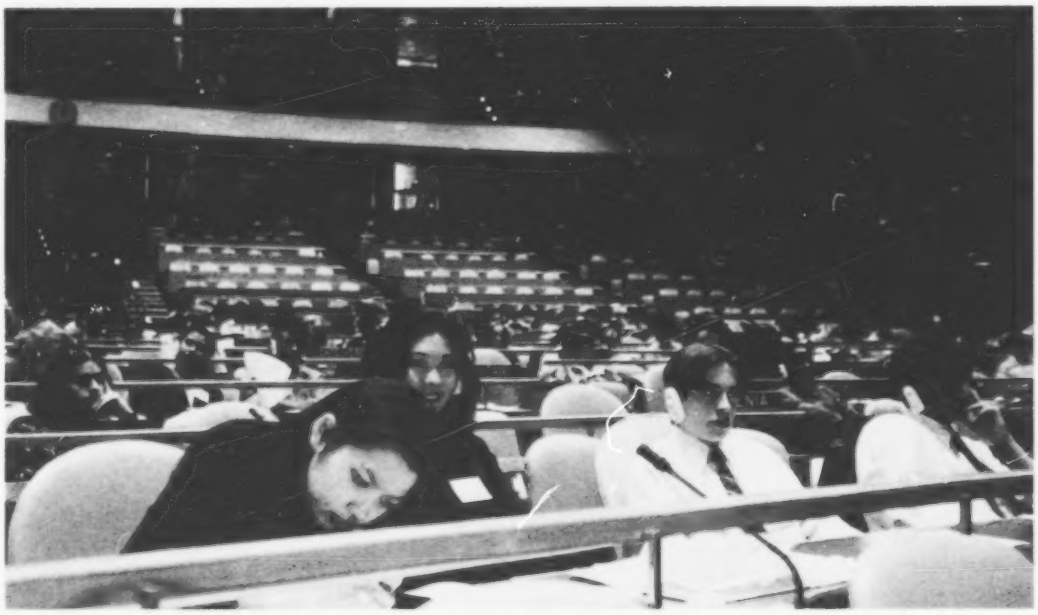
Increased internal conflicts, civil unrest and persisting drought and famine have led to greater numbers of refugees in Africa, the report stated. Between 1985 and 1991, their numbers rose sharply from 2.9 million to 5.4 million—an 85 per cent jump. ■

Draft programme for Population Conference discussed

An 82-page draft programme of action *(A/CONF.171/PC/5)* of the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development is to be discussed by the Preparatory Committee at its third session (4-22 April, New York).

The text sets forth ten areas of concern for the global meeting, scheduled for 5 to 13 September in Cairo. These are: interrelationships between population, sustained economic growth and sustainable development; gender equality and empowerment of women; the family, its roles, composition and structure; population growth and structure; reproductive rights, reproductive health and family planning; health and mortality; population distribution, urbanization and internal migration; international migration; population information, education and communication; and technology, research and development.

Students discuss UN issues in ambassadors' chairs



Poring over papers in the General Assembly Hall.

The meeting that took place on 3 and 4 March in the vast General Assembly Hall of the United Nations looked like a typical UN event: Hundreds of "ambassadors" from different nations milled about, looking for their seats, chatting with delegates from neighbouring countries, and sifting through position papers.

Of course, most ambassadors don't shout out such things as: "I want Zambia. That's a cool country!" And, most of them aren't under 18 years of age.

The two-day United Nations International School (UNIS) Student Conference brought together approximately 500 high school students from around the world to discuss the central theme, "International Responsibility: Power and Politics". Consisting of four panels, the meeting addressed the political, economic and social aspects of responsibility, as well as the role of Governments and the UN in finding solutions to international conflicts.

"People, as well as Governments, must become committed to thinking internationally", said James Hoge, Editor of *Foreign Affairs*, as he addressed the first session on the nature of UN peacekeeping missions, development, population growth and human rights.

Speaking on the situation in the former Yugoslavia, Bosnian Ambassador Muhammed Sacirbey said that using labels like genocide, civil war or ethnic strife was the international community's way of accepting different levels of responsibility. "The manipulation of labels is one of the most direct threats to the New World Order", he said. "When we talk about intervention, we must free ourselves of labels."

During a panel discussion, Napoleon Chagnon, anthropology professor at the University of California at Santa Barbara, outlined the Yanomamo Indian crisis in Venezuela.

Another discussion—on the role of the UN in the twenty-first century—included Uner Kirday, Senior Adviser to the Administrator of the UN Development Programme; David Malone, Canada's Ambassador to the UN; Leonard Silk, economic writer of *The New York Times*; and Sir Brian Urquhart, former UN Under-Secretary-General, now a resident scholar at the Ford Foundation.

Students offered their views on what the UN should be doing in the areas of human rights, military intervention, protecting the rights of children, promoting the economic responsibility of nations, and education.

To assist in the discussions, a UNIS-prepared "working paper" focused on the responsibility of all nations to the world and its problems. "We live in an interdependent world where we cannot escape the consequences of someone's action", the introduction stated. "We can survive with a difference in beliefs, but we cannot survive without each other."

Andrea Woodhouse, a UNIS senior, said: "The world is simply becoming a smaller place. We interact with each other more and more and are becoming world citizens." ■

A time to reflect, A time to look forward

by Elsa B. Endrst

Seated comfortably in her 31st-floor office in the tall, glass UN Secretariat building in New York, Gillian Martin Sorensen, Special Adviser to the Secretary-General for Information and Public Policy, reflects confidence in her overwhelming task of coordinating the UN's fiftieth anniversary celebration.

"We've laid the groundwork for what we believe will be an extraordinary year, a memorable year. An anniversary that will strengthen and reinforce the UN for the next half century", the Under-Secretary-General stated with pride.

With the official theme "We the peoples of the United Nations . . . united for a better world" as a guide, many partners are working to make this an unforgettable event, she said. Not only are the UN system and the United Nations Associations around the world deeply involved in the preparations for the celebration, but government groups, national committees from many Members States, as well as non-governmental organizations (NGOs), have all responded with great enthusiasm to the challenges of making the event memorable, said Mrs. Sorensen.

On 17 December 1991, at the forty-sixth session of the General Assembly, delegates decided to include an item on "Commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations in 1995" in forthcoming agendas.

A few months later, in April 1992, the Assembly established an official 50th anniversary Preparatory Committee, open to all UN Member States' participation. Furthermore, this Preparatory Committee's task would be to consider and recommend proposals for suitable activities for the anniversary, acting by consensus.

"Coordinating the anniversary is a wonderful challenge", said Gillian Martin Sorensen, "one that will not happen again in our lifetime."

To date, the Committee has met 13 times. At a March 1994 meeting, it proposed that a special meeting of the General Assembly at the level of Head of State or Government should be held in October 1995. That meeting, it was decided, should include the adoption of a declaration on the occasion of the 50th anniversary.

The regular UN budget will not be used to fund anniversary programmes. A UN50 Trust Fund has been created to receive extra-budgetary funds raised for this sole purpose.

To learn from the past

According to Mrs. Sorensen, interest in the anniversary runs high and some of the scepticism that the celebration would be "one big birthday party" has been overcome.

"We've done that by focusing on the enormous educational opportunities that exist, on the intellectual core. We've strengthened that core with curricula materials, documentaries, conferences and symposia that will reflect both on 50 years of the UN past and 50 years of the UN future. That will give it a serious and thoughtful 'centre' around which other events to remember, to commemorate, take place", she said.

Mrs. Sorensen believes that by strengthening that intellectual "centre" and by engaging in debate, the most will be made of an opportunity to learn from the past—"to grow and change and to create a UN that is more effective for the next half century", she noted.

Two historic events are the keystone of the anniversary celebration: in New York, the General Assembly will hold a commemorative session with Heads of State in attendance; and a Solemn Declaration, outlining a UN vision for

a secure and peaceful world, is being drafted, to be endorsed by Member States on 24 October 1995.

On 26 June, an official ceremony in San Francisco will include a celebration and re-dedication of the UN Charter.

Every day new ideas from around the world are being offered to the "UN50" staff to help promote the anniversary. Some proposals and projects are not country-specific and come from ordinary citizens. Others have been suggested by various peace, human rights, inter-faith and women's rights groups, as well as health care organizations.

Among the projects already begun are:

- An international "UN50" coin programme, under which Member States may issue commemorative anniversary coins. One national mint which makes coins for a number of nations will be selected to coordinate the international marketing to collectors. The UN50 Trust Fund will receive royalties from the sales of these coins.
- A project, endorsed by the UN Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to identify 50 successful communities worldwide, analyse and share the reasons for their success, and organize efforts to link "First Night" celebrations in cities across the nation with "UN50".
- A book written by children, answering questions raised by their peers, produced under the direction of the Peace Child International Foundation.
- A "global citizen" card for children between 5 and 10 years of age.
- The civic organizations in San Francisco, the site of the signing of the original UN Charter on 26 June 1945 at the Opera House, have created the UN50 Committee to oversee a broad array of events to commemorate the anniversary.

Among other activities will be UN 50 concerts, including a 50-country world tour by the Royal Philharmonic of London, UN Day concerts, which include a gala at Headquarters by the New York Philharmonic and a "UN Week of Music" at the Salzburg Festival.

NGO efforts

The Board of the Rotary International has endorsed several UN50-related activities for the organization, including a special one-day event to illustrate the common goals of the Rotary International and the UN, and cooperation with UN Associations.

The United Nations Association of the United States of America (UNA-USA) has released information on "How Community Organizations can Participate in the 50th Anniversary of the UN".

UNA-USA urges community organizations to form a UN50 Committee to plan and implement activities. Suggestions include organizing a UN50 Model UN, as well as other student activities, and inviting local and State officials and Congressional delegations to participate in planning a celebratory event—particularly a concert for United Nations Day on 24 October 1995. Other ideas include sponsoring a substantive forum, conference or seminar for the adult public.

There are activities, large and small, national and local, that are creative, as well as ambitious, "and in the spirit of reflection that we are encouraging", said Mrs. Sorensen with satisfaction.

The Under-Secretary-General considers the 50th anniversary theme most appropriate for this occasion because, she said, it is an inclusive theme.

"It makes special reference to 'we the peoples'. This is a 'peoples' anniversary. We're making certain that it involves citizens of all ages and background, united for a better world."

The United Nations is a universal organization, "not just relevant but critical to our common future", she said. "The UN is much more than just peace-keeping. Development, disarmament, democratization, environmental action, humanitarian assistance and population—all are very much part of the UN agenda", but she noted with a tone of disappointment, "often very much neglected by the press."

She hopes that reporters and producers will "widen their lenses and focus on many other aspects of the UN work, thereby creating a much deeper understanding in the world at large of what the UN is and does".

Mrs. Sorensen, the wife of Theodore C. Sorensen, an attorney, writer and former Special Counsel to President John F. Kennedy, is no stranger to the international community. From 1978 to 1990, she was New York City Commissioner for the United Nations and Consular Corps, responsible for addressing the varied problems of the 35,000 diplomats and their families posted in Manhattan. She is able to easily and enthusiastically speak, often without notes, about every aspect of UN work.

As Commissioner, she said, she "was sensitive to the interaction between the UN and the life of this city. The UN is not some separate universe. It's very much connected here in so many ways. There's a synergy that I think is important. And the communities of culture, of finance and of business all connect to and nurture UN people and, in some instances, UN causes and commitments."

She added: "UN work affects citizens and their understanding of how Governments work in a very direct way. I would like to strengthen that connection."

Hopefully, by the end of the year, she said, as a result of an enormous grass-roots effort translated into active government commitment, both in human resources and financial resources, the climate created will offer a better prospect for peace.

"Coordinating the anniversary is a wonderful challenge", she said, "one that will not happen again in our lifetime." It is her hope that the commemoration will positively influence the future of the Organization by making the public more aware of all UN efforts—"efforts to improve, to look forward to peace and fairness and justice around the world", she concluded with conviction. ■

Investigating the acts of desperate men

by Harold Fruchtbaum

Before there was a UN, there was an organization bearing its name—the United Nations War Crimes Commission (UNWCC). On 20 October 1943, more than two years before the UN Charter came into effect, representatives of 17 nations—Australia, Belgium, Canada, China, Czechoslovakia, France, Greece, India, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, South Africa, United Kingdom, United States and Yugoslavia—met in London at the British Foreign Office to establish the UNWCC. They gave the new agency the tasks of receiving information about war crimes, developing and recording evidence, identifying the persons responsible, and referring cases to the Governments concerned for legal action.

Well before the delegates met to create the UNWCC, a flood of reports about atrocities against civilians in Nazi-occupied Europe had moved public opinion, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and Governments to demand the punishment of war criminals at the end of the global conflict. In a message from 10 Downing Street on 25 October 1941, United Kingdom Prime Minister Winston Churchill denounced as "butcheries" the execution of hostages by "Hitler's Nazis" in France and elsewhere.

"Retribution for these crimes must henceforward take its place among the major purposes of the war", he said. That same day in Washington, United States President Franklin D. Roosevelt called these reprisal murders "the acts of desperate men who know in their hearts that they cannot win". He said: "Frightfulness can never bring peace to Europe. It only sows the seeds of hatred which will one day bring frightful retribution."

Under the auspices of the Inter-Allied Conference on the Punishment of War Crimes, the representatives of nine occupied countries—Belgium, Czechoslovakia, France, Greece, Luxembourg, Norway, Netherlands, Poland and Yugoslavia—met at St. James's Palace in London and, on 13 January 1942, signed a declaration placing "among their principal war aims the punishment, through the channel of organized justice", of those responsible for acts of violence against the civilian populations.

Responding to information about new waves of atrocities in their countries, the nine Governments together presented notes to Great Britain, the Soviet Union and the United States in July 1942, urgently appealing for timely measures "to save innumerable innocent lives in the territories occupied by the enemy". In response, the leaders of the three Powers committed their Governments to the idea that those accused of war crimes should stand trial before courts in the countries where the atrocities took place.

Over the next 15 months, while global war ground on relentlessly, several NGOs focused on the definition of war crimes and the prosecution of those responsible for them. Issues with far-reaching implications were considered. Should "superior orders" be allowed as a defence? Could Heads of State and other high officials be held personally responsible? Was an international criminal court needed? When the UNWCC began its work near the end of 1943, several members were among the experts who had studied these questions. The UNWCC soon set out to elaborate such concepts as war crimes, crimes against humanity, and crimes against peace.

National offices affiliated with UNWCC were opened. To deal with cases from Asia, the Far Eastern and Pacific Sub-Commission was established in China. Having recommended the creation of a UN War Crimes Court, the UNWCC assisted the International Military Tribunals at Nuremberg that tried major Nazi war criminals.

Bettmann Photo

At the war crimes trials, Nuremberg, 1946.

When Churchill, Roosevelt and Stalin ended their conference in Moscow on 30 October 1943, they issued the Declaration of Atrocities in the name of the three Allied Powers and the 32 "United Nations"—as they were called in the text—warning those responsible for "atrocities, massacres and executions" that they would be judged and punished for these "abominable deeds" in the countries where the acts were committed. Moreover, lists of the accused would be compiled and those named pursued "to the uttermost ends of the earth" and delivered to their "accusers in order that justice may be done".

By the time the UNWCC ended on 31 March 1948, it had prepared 80 lists, naming war criminals, suspects and material witnesses, some 36,529 persons and 281 groups—about a quarter of them were brought to trial. ■

DEVELOPMENT FORUM

Council high-level segment to discuss 'Agenda for development'

The proposed "Agenda for development" will be the major theme for the high-level segment of the 1994 substantive session of the Economic and Social Council, it was decided at its organizational meeting (25 January and 1-4 February, New York). Science and technology for development and international cooperation within the UN system against the illicit production, sale, demand, traffic and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances will be the themes of the coordination segment. A provisional agenda was also adopted for the session, set for 27 June to 29 July. Richard Butler of Australia was elected President of the 54-member Council. Denis Dangue Rewaka of Gabon, Mihai Rolez of Romania, Jamsheed K.A. Marker of Pakistan and Carlos A. Bivero of Venezuela were elected Vice-presidents.

Report foresees healthier global economy in 1994

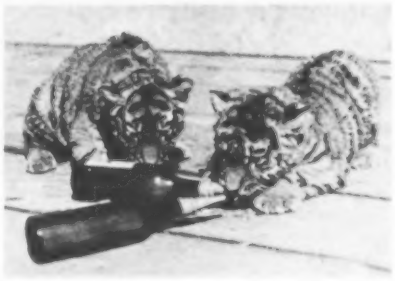
Accelerated recovery of the United States economy and completion of the Uruguay Round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade talks signal a healthier global economy for 1994, according to the year-end report of the Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis. That optimism is tempered, however, by prospects for slow economic growth in Latin America and Africa, rising global unemployment and difficulties facing formerly centralized economies adapting to free markets.

Governments adopt new Tropical Timber Agreement

The new International Timber Agreement 1994 was adopted at the fourth session of the UN Conference for the Negotiation of a Successor Agreement to the International Tropical Timber Agreement 1983 (8-26 January, Geneva).

Governments of major producing and consuming countries of tropical timber also agreed to extend the 1983 Agreement, which was to expire on 31 March, pending the entry into force of the new Agreement, set for 1 February 1995. The 1994 Agreement is the first internationally binding instrument on timber that emphasizes sustainable management of forests.

Asian States join forces to save the tiger



Poaching, illegal trading in skins, population growth and agricultural expansion threaten the survival of the tiger.

A decision to convene a Global Tiger Forum was taken by senior officials from "tiger range" States in Asia at a meeting in New Delhi on 3 and 4 March. The Forum, convened by the Government of India in cooperation with the UN Environment Programme, will aim to save the tiger from extinction, improve its habitats, ban the use of tiger products, and eliminate illegal trade in its parts.

In opening the session, India's Minister for Environment and Forests, Kamal Nath, noted that the tiger had been depicted as a divine vehicle in legend and mythology, and as a symbol of regeneration. "We must respect this attitude and aim to build up on it", he said.

News in brief . . .

- Kenneth K.S. Dadzie, Secretary-General of the UN Conference on Trade and Devlopment (UNCTAD) since 1986 and a UN international civil servant since 1963, retired from the Organization at the end of his term of office on 31 March.
- Exporting hazardous waste from member countries of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) to non-OECD nations will be banned completely by 31 December 1997. That decision was taken at a meeting of the 64 parties to the 1989 Basel Convention on the Control of the Transboudary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal (21-25 March, Geneva).
- A Special Committee to examine resource replenishment and governance issues was called for by the seventeenth Governing Council of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) at its plenary session (26-28 January, Rome). Consisting of 12 donors and borrowers, the new Committee will scrutinize IFAD's present funding mechanisms, the voting rights of member States and the composition of the Executive Board. Its recommendations and conclusions will be presented at the eighteenth session in January.
- The Agreement for the Conservation of Bats in Europe—the first international instrument devoted to bats and the first to be reached under the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (1983 Bonn Convention)—went into force on 16 January. Aimed at encouraging continent-wide cooperation to conserve 29 species of the European bat, the Agreement restricts the killing or capture of the species, promotes protection of its key habitats, coordinates research and attempts to increase public awareness of bat conservation. ■

NEWS ALMANAC

Most UN Members favour enlarging Security Council

UN Photo 183718/M. Grant

Virtually all Member States of the UN favour an increase in the membership of the Security Council, with no voices to the contrary, according to an informal paper issued by General Assembly President Samuel R. Insanally (Guyana). The paper was provided to the Assembly's Open-Ended Working Group on the Question of Equitable Representation on and Increase in the Membership of the Security Council, which held its first meeting at Headquarters on 19 January. It contained an overview of the positions of Member States on the question, based on almost 100 written replies submitted at the invitation of the Secretary-General and on the views expressed by delegations during the Assembly's 48th session.

According to the informal paper, many States want the Security Council to reflect the radical changes in the world and the increase in the Organization's overall Membership, in order to make it more representative and democratic. However, views on the criteria for revising the Council's composition varied widely. Most States envisaged the total number of seats being increased from15 to between 19 and 25, although some favoured 31. Many States stipulated, however, that an increase in the membership should not diminish the Council's efficiency.

Most States want to retain the existing categories of permanent and non-permanent Council members, although new categories of membership were also suggested. Those included new permanent seats without the power of veto; rotating permanent seats, with or witout the veto; and semi-permanent seats or extended membership. Some States envisaged an increase of at least one, and as much as seven, in the number of permanent members. However, others felt that there should be no additional permanent seats at all. Diverse factors were cited regarding the criteria for Council membership, including the size of peacekeeping and financial contributions, the size of population and territory, economic potential, regional importance, geopolitical situation and military capability.

Hostilities persist in Afghanistan, food blockade imposed

Deeply regretting the continuing food blockade imposed on Kabul, which was increasing the hardships of "hundreds of thousands of the city's starving inhabitants", the Security Council on 23 March called for an "immediate end to the obstacles to the passage of humanitarian aid", in order to ensure that future supplies were distributed "without hindrance to the whole of the population" of Afghanistan. In a statement by its President Jean-Bernard Mérimée of France, the Council said that the seriousness of the humanitarian situation was "entirely due to the ongoing fighting" in that country.

The Council expressed support for the UN special mission to Afghanistan, dispatched by the Secretary-General on 24 March to "canvass a broad spectrum" of the country's leaders to solicit their views on how the UN could "best assist Afghanistan in facilitating national *rapprochement* and reconstruction". The mission is headed by Ambassador Mahmoud Mestiri of Tunisia. A call for an "immediate cessation of hostilities" and the beginning of a process to create a "broad-based government acceptable to the Afghan people" had been made by the Council on 24 January.

Food supplies urgently needed by hundreds of thousands of displaced peoples in Kabul had reached distribution points in the war-torn capital, the World Food Programme announed on 7 March.

Decolonization: Committee starts work

While the inalienable right of colonized peoples to freely choose their destiny was now universally recognized, there was still a need to establish in the Non-Self-Governing Territories the "political, economic and social conditions that will promote the exercise of this free choice", Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali told the Special Committee on decolonization on 15 February, as it began work for 1994.

Renagi Renagi Lohia of Papua New Guinea—re-elected as the body's Chairman, for a third term—hoped that the Special Committee would "usher in the new millenium with a clean slate, with no colonial Territories on the list". The administering Powers should invite visiting missions to the Territories under their administration and cooperate by providing relevant up-to-date information. Such missions could assess progress towards self-government and the eventual exercise of self-determination.

Amor Ardhaoui of Tunisia, Chairman of the Special Committee's Subcommittee on Small Territories and Petitions, said on 23 February that the main task was not to work for the independence of the Territories in question, but to explain the range of choices available to them—such as association, autonomy, integration or independence.

Palau votes for free association

The Trusteeship Council on 18 January declared that the 9 November plebiscite in Palau had been conducted "freely and fairly", with over 68 per cent of Palauans voting in favour of the Compact of Free Association with the United States. In approving a report on its sixtieth session (12 May 1993-18 January 1994), the Trusteeship Council hoped that the Trusteeship Agreement for Palau could be terminated "in the very near future", and that the Administering Authority—the United States—would continue to assist Palauans attain greater economic self-sufficiency through responsible economic development. Recent improvements in the economic, social and related fields in Palau, for which the people of the Territory had elected to assume full responsibility, were welcomed.

Palau is the only constituent entity of the original Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands still under the UN International Trusteeship System. By resolution 683 (1990) of 22 December 1990, the Security Council terminated the Trusteeship Agreement for the Federated States of Micronesia and the Marshall Islands, which had approved Compacts of Free Association with the United States, and the Northern Mariana Islands, which had opted for Commonwealth Status.

Between 1983 and 1992, six plebiscites were held in Palau. Although each time the majority of voters—between 60 and 73 per cent—had supported the Compact, it failed to gain the 75 per cent majority required by the Territory's Constitution for it to become law. Voters in a 4 November 1992 referendum approved a constitutional amendment lowering the required percentage for the Compact to be approved, from 75 to "50 plus 1" per cent.

Recommend tribunal on genocide, crimes against humanity

An international tribunal, with general jurisdiction to prosecute genocide, crimes against humanity and other inhumane acts directed against any civilian population, was recommended by the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination at its forty-fourth session (28 February-18 March, Geneva). Such a tribunal was urgently needed to deal with the increasing number of racially- and ethnically-motivated atrocities occurring throughout the world, the Committee stated. The High Commissioner for Human Rights was asked to ensure that all information relevant to those crimes, including murder, extermination, enslavement, deportation, imprisonment, torture, rape and persecutions on political, racial and religious grounds, was collected by the Centre for Human Rights. The Secretary-General was urged to bring the recommendation to the attention of competent UN bodies. Charged with reviewing the implementation of the 1965 Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the 18-member body considered reports from 11 countries.

Outer space bodies meet

The possible holding a third UN conference on the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space (UNISPACE III), hazards posed by space debris, and new ways to use space technology to protect the environment and to provide early warning of natural disasters—those were among the key topics discussed by the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the Comittee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, as it held its thirty-first session (21 February-3 March, Vienna).

The Outer Space Committee's other subsidiary organ—its Legal Subcommitee—also met in Vienna for its thirty-third session (21 March-5 April). Among issues considered were: the definition of a boundary between airspace and outer space; revision of existing principles governing the use of nuclear power sources in space; and how to best ensure that benefits from space research were available to all countries.

Both bodies were to report to the Outer Space Committee, scheduled to meet in Vienna from 6 to 17 June.

Movement towards commercial seabed mining reported

Commercial production from deep seabed mining remains "likely at some time in the future", though full-scale commercial production is not expected before the year 2010, according to a report prepared for the Preparatory Commission for the International Seabed Authority and for the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea.

The report of a Group of Technical Experts on prospects for deep seabed mining, presented to the Commission at the first part of its twelfth regular session (7-11 February, Kingston), noted that polymetallic nodules found on the deep seabed beyond the limits of national jurisdiction continued to represent "potential commercial prospects" which will be mined at some point in the future. The Group based its assessment on a number of factors, including the vastness of the resources on the ocean floor and "the absence of insurmountable technological obstacles".

Charter Committee drafts declaration

A draft declaration recognizing the importance of regional arrangements in the peaceful settlement of disputes, and an extensive debate on assistance to States suffering special economic problems as a result of carrying out UN sanctions, marked the three-week session (7-25 March, New York) of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization. The Committee completed a "first reading" of a proposal for model rules for the conciliation of disputes between States, and considered a number of working papers on maintenance of international peace and security, including strengthening of the UN role in those fields, as well as the peaceful settlement of disputes. A proposal to establish a dispute settlement service for early response in disputes was also discussed.

Children's rights committee meets

Measures taken by Mexico, Namibia, Colombia, Romania and Belarus to protect and promote the rights of children were welcomed by the Committee on the Rights of the Child at its fifth session (10-28 January, Geneva).

Charged with monitoring the implementation of the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child, the 10-member expert body also endorsed establishment of national mechanisms for coordinating policies aimed at protecting children from economic exploitation.

World Court news

The boundary between Libya and Chad was defined by the 1955 Treaty of Friendship and Good Neighbourliness between France and Libya, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) ruled on 3 February. The boundary stretched "from the point of intersection of the 24th meridian east with the parallel 19° 30' of latitude north, a straight line to the point of intersection of the Tropic of Cancer with the 16th meridian east; and from that point a straight line to the point of intersection of the 15th meridian east and the parallel 23° of latitude north".

Also, Cameroon on 29 March instituted proceedings against Nigeria in a sovereignty dispute over the peninsula of Bakassi. It asked the Court to "determine the course of the maritime frontier between the two States in so far as that frontier had not already been established in 1975".

Judge Mohammed Bedjaoui of Algeria was elected on 7 February as ICJ President, and Judge Stephen Schwebel of the United States as its Vice-President. Their terms of office were to end on 5 February 1997. Eduardo Valencia-Ospina of Colombia was re-elected as the Court Registrar on 15 February.

Hans Axel Valdemar Corell of Sweden was named Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs and Legal Council of the United Nations, as of 1 February. He succeeded Carl-August Fleischhauer of Germany, who was elected as Judge of the International Court of Justice on 10 November 1993. ■

STAMP CORNER

Acknowledging the needs of individuals, families and countries for such basic necessities as better health services, education, housing, employment and other measures to alleviate poverty, the UN Postal Administration will issue a special first-day cancellation at the Palais des Nations in Geneva on 1 September 1994, in conjunction with the International Conference on Population and Development (5-13 September).

A souvenir card with the theme "Population and Development" will also be issued on 1 September. The card, which includes the stamp designs and the stamp issues, was designed by Jerry Smath, a children's book illustrator.

The stamps, printed in offset lithography in four process colours, were issued in denominations of: 29 and 52 United States cents, 0.60 and 0.80 Swiss Francs, and 5.50 and 7 Austrian Schillings.

Accompanying the issue, the World Federation of United Nations Association will feature in its first day cover and limited edition art print an image entitled "Bulkhead Daylights" by the celebrated American artist Robert Rauschenberg.

BOOKWATCH

The United Nations Disarmament Yearbook 1993, Volume 18

UN Centre for Disarmament Affairs, New York
United Nations Publications, 1994
419 pp. $50. Sales No. E.94.IX.1 ISBN 92-1-142204-3

The timely appearance of the concise and well-written *Disarmament Yearbook*, with its texts of General Assembly resolutions and appendices of documents, is always welcome. "During 1993", the *Yearbook* states, "although threats to international peace were posed by ethnic strife and militant nationalism and fundamentalism, they did not prevent further progress towards disarmament". The United States and the Russian Federation, for example, reduced their inventories of mass destruction nuclear weapons. A de facto moratorium on nuclear testing continued, and substantive negotiations began this year to conclude a comprehensive test-ban treaty. The *Yearbook* also cites progress in other areas such as nuclear arms limitation, transparency, and the prohibition of biological and chemical weapons. Considerable activity centred on the use of land mines and other weapons considered excessively injurious or indiscriminate in their effects. Nevertheless, problems like threats to the non-proliferation treaty remain. In its review of developments and trends, the indispensable *Yearbook* does not avoid these.

Women, the Environment and Sustainable Development: Towards a Theoretical Synthesis

Rosi Braidotti, Ewa Charkiewicz, Sabine Häusler, Saskia Wieringa
UN International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW), Santo Domingo
Zed Books, London, 1994
220 pp. 12.95/$19.95. ISBN 1-85649-184-6

The quest for connections between the ideas of women's, environmental and development movements is not an easy venture. That makes the achievement of the four authors of this book all the more noteworthy. Expanded from a report commissioned by INSTRAW in 1990, the work begins by declaring that for the people of the South "the development process contributed to the growth of poverty, to an increase in economic and gender inequalities, and to the degradation of the environment which further diminishes the means of livelihood of poor people, particularly women". Moreover, "the environmental crisis is also a warning signal of the crisis of development in the North". Seeing Western science as "the motor of the crisis", the authors use the findings of feminist epistemology in their analysis. They consider a wide range of concepts and themes, such as deep ecology, ecofeminism, gender and the feminist critique of development. Ending with proposals for action, the book is an important contribution to pro-environmental change.

Rescue Mission Planet Earth A Children's Edition of Agenda 21

UN Children's Fund, UN Development Programme, UN Environment Programme, UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, Foundation for Environmental Awareness
Grisewood & Dempsey, London and New York, 1994
96 pp. $9.95. ISBN 1-85697-175-9 (paperback)

The 28 young editors from 21 countries are correct when they write, "No—this isn't another doom and gloom book about eco-disasters with some kindly advice at the end about how to sort your garbage." They have created a colourful and spirited book about Agenda 21. "What we've done is to put it into a language that ordinary people can understand." Written, designed, typeset and illustrated by the Children's Task Force on Agenda 21, this intelligent volume synthesizes the work of more than 10,000 young people in 75 countries. The themes of Agenda 21 are presented in two parts: one for the problems and possible solutions in the natural world; the other for the human world. Where Agenda 21 is reticent, the editors are not reluctant to shout. For example, they "were surprised by one thing: there's nothing in Agenda 21 about war and militarism"! Who will do what must be done and the role of young people are treated in the last two parts of the book. A good-humoured glossary—"Acid rain (is) rain with acid in it"—and slip-out booklet of relevant activities for children complete this original call to action.

Life, Death and Aid The Médecins Sans Frontières Report on World Crisis Intervention

Edited by François Jean
Routledge, London and New York, 1993
160 pp. ISBN 0-415-10550-1

Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) describes itself as "the world's largest independent organization for emergency medical aid". Founded in 1971 by physicians "disillusioned with the political conditions attached to aid operations", it assists "all populations affected by war and natural disasters, regardless of government consent". The independence of MSF is well-reflected in this report on "the ten most urgent humanitarian crises in the world". In chapters that review each crisis and consider the present-day problems in peace-keeping and humanitarian aid, MSF does not mince words. Where deserved, it faults Governments, the UN, the non-governmental organizations and the media. Where earned, it praises. Here is a candid book to be grappled with.

Reviewed by Professor Harold Fruchtbaum
Columbia University, New York

COMING UP

A preview of some important UN conferences and events

July-September 1994

New York

11-15 July	Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean
11-22 July	Group of Governmental Experts to Carry Out a Study on Verification in All Its Aspects. 2nd session
25 July-5 August	Group of governmental experts to prepare a report on the continuing operation of the Register of Conventional Arms and its further development. 3rd session
1-12 August	Preparatory Commission for the International Seabed Authority and for the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea
15-26 August	UN Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks. 4th session
22 August-2 September	Preparatory Committee for the World Summit for Social Development. 2nd session
20 September	Opening of the forty-ninth session of the General Assembly

Geneva

4-29 July	Human Rights Committee. 51st session
25 July-7 September	Conference on Disarmament. 3rd part
1-19 August	Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. 45th session
22-26 August	Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories
26 September-14 October	Committee on the Rights of the Child. 7th session

Vienna

18-19 July	Investments Committee
19-23 September	IAEA—General Conference

Other locations

5-13 September	International Conference on Population and Development. Cairo

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to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small, and

to establish conditions under which justice and respect for the obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law can be maintained, and

to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom,

AND FOR THESE ENDS

to practice tolerance and live together in peace with one another as good neighbours, and

to unite our strength to maintain international peace and security, and

to ensure, by the acceptance of principles and the institution of methods, that armed force shall not be used, save in the common interest, and

to employ international machinery for the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples,

HAVE RESOLVED TO
COMBINE OUR EFFORTS TO
ACCOMPLISH THESE AIMS

Accordingly, our respective Governments, through representatives assembled in the city of San Francisco, who have exhibited their full powers found to be in good and due form, have agreed to the present Charter of the United Nations and do hereby establish an international organization to be known as the United Nations.